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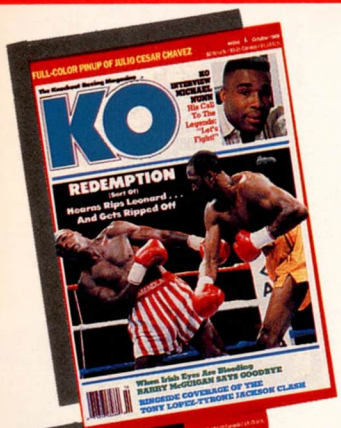

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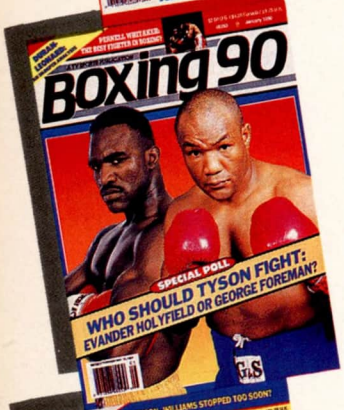

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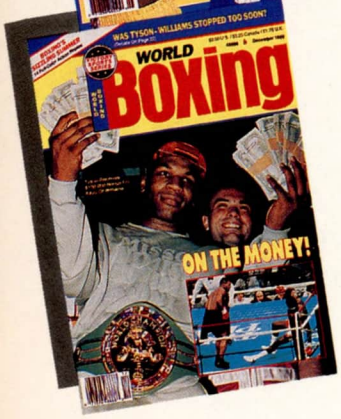

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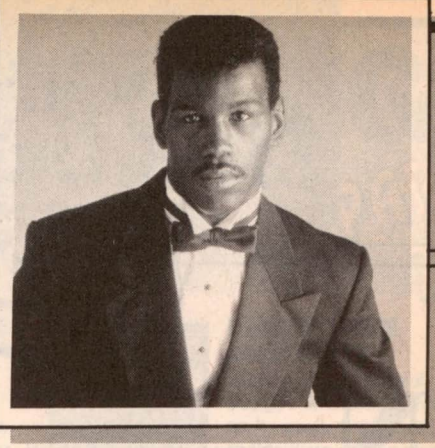

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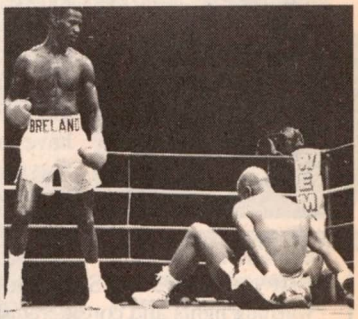

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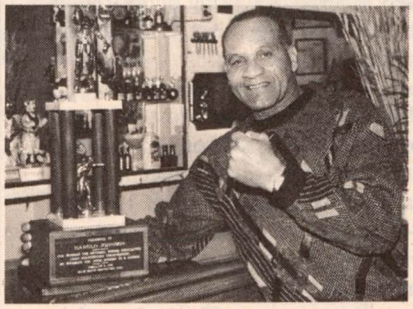

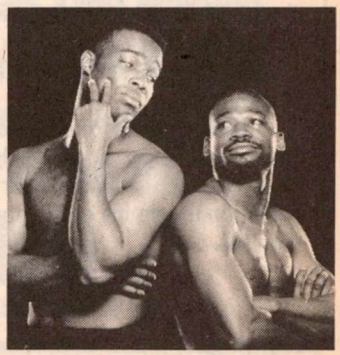

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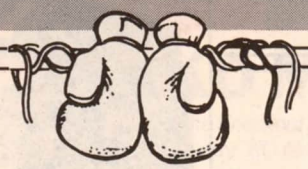

Never call me a boxing apologist, you know, the type of ringsider who claims he's never seen a punch-drunk fighter, and that if you examine the statistics, boxing is no more dangerous than bocce. Violence is a major part of both boxing and its appeal, and if you deny it, you're either lying to yourself, or you're a Michael Nunn fan.

Like any other observer who loves the sport, I encourage uniformed rules and medical improvements. But they can only reduce—and not eliminate—head injuries and fatalities.

Which brings me to Richard Steele's stoppage of the Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor title fight. Because there were two seconds left in the last round and Taylor was comfortably ahead on two of the three cards, Steele's intervention will be debated long into the next century. But I'm not going to wait that long to tell you why he did the right thing.

First of all, it must be understood that Steele's call was a subjective one. It's possible that had he allowed the bout to continue, the bell would have rung before any more punches were thrown, and Taylor would have triumphed by well-deserved split decision. It's also possible that upon receiving a signal from Steele, Chavez, his adrenaline racing, could have rushed across the ring and fired one last straight—and potentially tragic—right.

If you believe that Steele should have recognized the flashing 10-second warning lights and considered the time remaining before making his decision, you're missing the point. Given the situation, Steele's *sole* responsibility was to determine Taylor's condition and his ability to defend himself. It was long ago that in most states, referees were wisely relieved of scoring fights so they could concentrate on their primary duties. By having them act as in-the-ring timekeepers, boxing would be taking a giant backward step.

Never mind that Steele received no response after twice asking Taylor if he was okay. Why do referees demand verbal communication? Most fighters answer "I'm okay" by instinct, just as most instinctively rise from knockdowns. A fighter who tells a referee he's all right is not necessarily a fighter who should be waved back into battle. That aside, Steele took a look at Taylor's eyes and, realizing how the brutal pace—and Chavez' brutal fists—had weakened him, decided to stop the bout. Taylor and his camp might have objected, but in retrospect, Steele's judgment seemed solid. After the bout, Taylor was hospitalized. He had swallowed two pints of blood, was suffering from dehydration, was bleeding in his kidneys, and had a fracture of the orbital bone surrounding his left eye. Other than that, he could have boxed another 10 or 12 rounds.

Those who call for a referee to stop a fight as soon as one of the boxers is hurt are failing to acknowledge the nature of the beast. But given the circumstances of the Chavez-Taylor fight and the track-record of Steele, those who question the timing of his stoppage are failing to acknowledge that the beast can kill.

Steve Farhood

Editor-In-Chief

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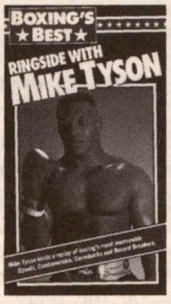

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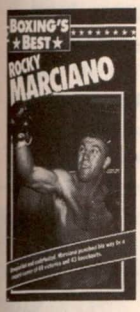

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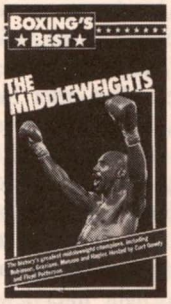

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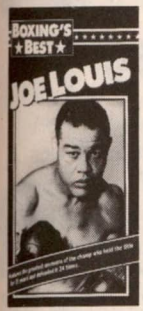

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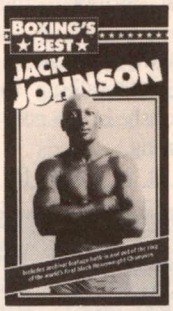

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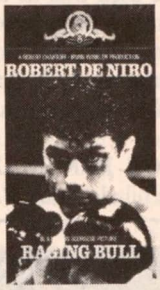

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THE FANTASTIC FINISH

I am writing to you on the night I have viewed one of the worst decisions by a referee that I have ever seen. Prior to the Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor fight, I had a lot of respect for Richard Steele. But after his decision to stop this bout with two seconds to go, I was in total shock.

Taylor was up at the count of six, and he nodded at Steele. Evidently, Steele did not see this. Taylor had dominated and pummeled Chavez for 11 rounds. In the postfight interview, Steele said he thought that Taylor had been beaten up, and he used that as an excuse to stop the fight. With referees like this, who needs boxing? Then one of the HBO commentators said that one of the judges had Chavez ahead! What a disgrace!

JOE BERGMAN
Philadelphia, PA

After reviewing the Chavez-Taylor TKO, I have to commend referee Richard Steele on his crucial decision to wave off the fight in the 12th round. For those who contend that Taylor should have been allowed to continue, I submit three concrete facts to prove otherwise.

First, after Taylor received his mandatory eight-count, Steele twice asked him, "Are you okay?" Taylor did not respond, but instead looked toward his corner. Second, Taylor did not put his gloves in front of his face to show Steele he could continue. Finally, in a postfight interview with HBO's Larry Merchant, Taylor described the ending by saying, " . . . Then I got up. He [Steele] didn't say anything to me. He didn't say, 'Are you okay?' He didn't give me no kind of direction in the corner. Then he just stopped the fight."

If Taylor, by his own admission, could not remember Steele talking to him, then he was obviously in no condition to continue fighting.

A standing ovation is in order for Steele. With the stakes so high, and in a fight of such magnitude, he kept his mind clear and made the right decision when the pressure was on. It's no wonder that he's considered by many to be boxing's best referee.

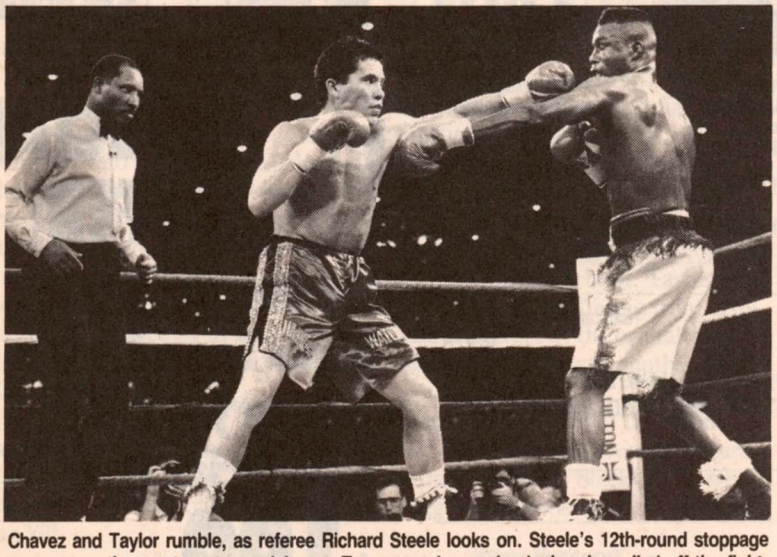
LEE TOKUDA
Kaneohe, HI

I just witnessed the most biased boxing announcing I have ever heard. It was by HBO's Larry Merchant and Sugar Ray Leonard during the Chavez-Taylor match. Yes, I think Taylor was ahead on points, but Chavez' punches had much more impact. Every time Taylor would land a combination, the announcers would praise him for his speed. Every time Chavez landed, you could hear a pin fall. And when Taylor was knocked down, the only comment made by Merchant was, "All Taylor needs to do is get up to win the fight!"

After the fight, Merchant asked referee Richard Steele, "Given the stakes of the fight . . . " Somebody should explain to Merchant that just because it's a title fight with $1-million purses, the rules don't change.

RUBEN ACEVEDO
Covina, CA

Analyst Larry Merchant and his HBO broadcast partners were heavily criticized for their call of the memorable Chavez-Taylor title fight.

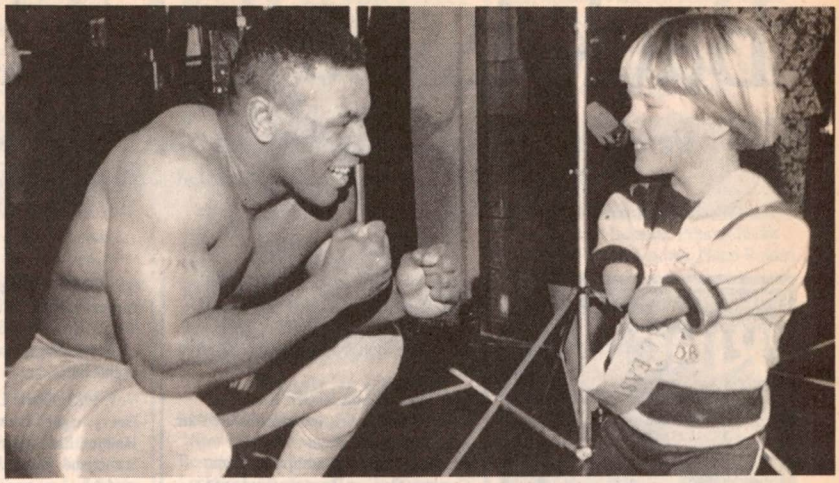


Chavez and Taylor rumble, as referee Richard Steele looks on. Steele's 12th-round stoppage was among the most controversial ever. Two seconds remained when he called off the fight.

During the Chavez-Taylor fight, the HBO announcing crew of Jim Lampley, Larry Merchant, and Ray Leonard was undoubtedly the most one-sided and prejudicial I have ever heard. From round one until the fight was stopped, the announcers threw their praises toward Taylor, virtually ignoring Chavez. That HBO's scoring judge, Harold Lederman, could have had Taylor almost shutting out Chavez is unbelievable to me.

HBO all but bronzed Taylor and put him on display in a museum. How any fighter can be labeled great after only 26 fights is beyond me. The only true great in the ring was Julio Cesar Chavez.

BRUISER SEVADA
Parker, AZ



Mike Tyson with 1988 National Easter Seals Child Shawn Dennsteadt. Reader Mark Mathosian writes that Tyson isn't as mean and nasty as columnist Jeff Ryan makes him out to be.

THEY FOUGHT ON

I'm hoping you can answer a question that I've always been curious about. It seems that very few heavyweight champions fight on after they lose the title. Some have a few fights, but few continue to campaign for an extended period. Can you tell me which heavyweight had the most fights after losing the title?

JOSEPH BECERRIA
St. Paul, MN

Editor's Note: Ezzard Charles holds that distinction. Charles, who lost the heavyweight title via seventh-round kayo to Jersey Joe Walcott in July 1951, fought until 1959. He had 43 bouts after losing the crown.

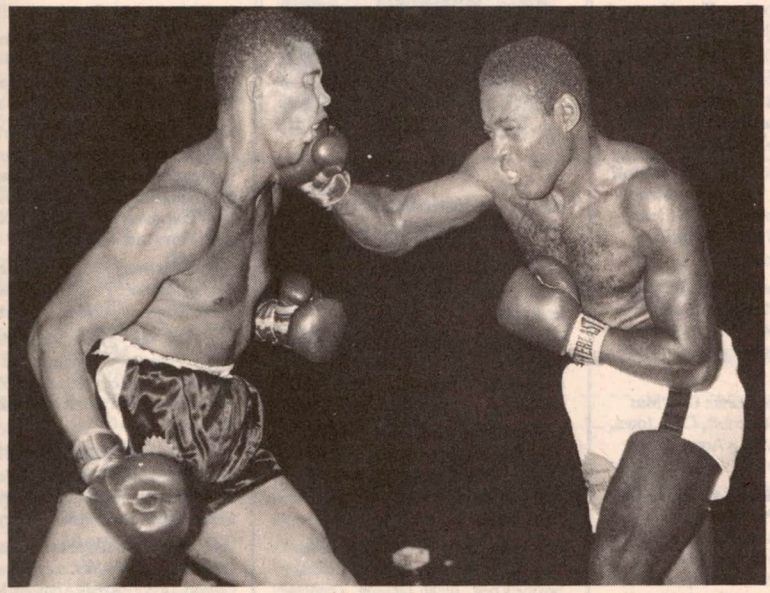
GIVE TYSON A BREAK

In the June 1990 issue, Jeff Ryan took some pretty low shots at Mike Tyson in his "Ryan Out Loud" column. Granted, socially speaking, Tyson may not be the most polished fighter around, but he isn't that different from many of his predecessors. Is Tyson really as mean and nasty as Ryan makes him out to be? I think not.

A few months back, I watched a TV special that showed Tyson lying on a floor and playing with kids in a home for needy children. Tyson romped with them affectionately, and they hung all over him. It was obvious that he was sincere in his love for those kids. You could see the children sensed this as well. It wasn't just a Don King promotional put-on.

So come on, Ryan, lighten up. Tyson is only human, and everyone deserves a second chance. There is more to Tyson than just blood and guts. In time, an image of the adult Tyson will emerge, and it will be much different from the current one.

MARK MATHOSIAN
Boca Raton, FL



Former heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles punishes Coley Wallace in December 1953. Charles, who fought 43 times after losing the crown, scored a 10th-round stoppage.

COLOR BLIND?

I enjoyed the article by Joseph C. Tintle on the Foreman-Cooney fight in the May 1990 issue ("Big George Talks Tough! 'Tyson Won't Be That Difficult' "), but it contained the same old worn-out statement about Cooney getting the fight because he was white. Cooney got the fight because he comes to fight and can hit hard enough to move a building. How many fans would've paid to have seen Foreman fight Witherspoon or Tubbs or Dokes or Williams? By the way, if Cooney were to come back and fight any of the aforementioned contenders, I'd lay a few bucks on him just in case he might hit one of them.

Did Evander Holyfield get a cruiserweight title shot after only 11 bouts because he was black? Or was it because he was good? If Tommy "Duke" Morrison develops into a good heavyweight, will the writers say he gets fights because he's white?

Let the fighters fight, the writers write, and other people deal with the social matters.

JIM CORBIN
Nashville, TN ■

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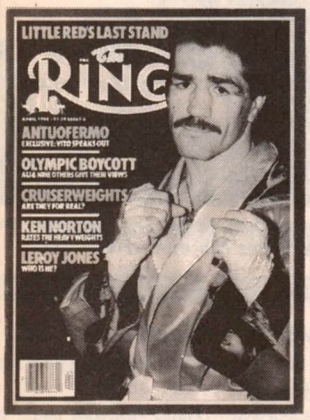


APRIL 1980

April 1980: Exclusive: Vito Antuofermo Speaks Out. Plus: Leroy Jones, cruiserweights, Ken Norton rates the heavyweights, Olympic boycott, Danny Lopez.

Nov. 1980: Joe Louis: His Life In Words And Pictures. Plus: Leo Randolph, Aaron Pryor, Arthur Donovan, Gomez-Holmes.

Dec. 1980: Thomas Hearns: Detroit's "Hit Man" Takes Aim At Duran And Leonard. Plus: Mustafa Hamsho, Duran-Leonard II, Holmes-Ali, Hagler-Minter, Pintor-Owen, Sanchez-Ford.

Jan. 1981: Gentlemen Gerry Cooney: White Hope Or White Hype? Plus: Larry Holmes, Watt-O'Grady, Spinks-Lopez, Weaver-Coetzee, 10 greatest fights ever.

Feb. 1981: DeNiro As LaMotta: How 'Raging' Is The 'Bull'? Plus: Leonard-Duran II, Victor Galindez, Jeff Chandler, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad.

April 1981: Marvelous Marvin Hagler: Boxing's New Super Hero. Plus: MAPSCAM, Hagler-Obel I, Chandler-Lujan, Jaime Garza, Hamsho-Parker.

May 1981: John Tate: How Far Down is Down? Plus: The worst champs, Floyd Patterson, Boza-Edwards-Limon.

Aug. 1981: Wilfred Benitez: Triple Crown Champ. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Henry Armstrong, Robert Fitzsimmons, Barney Ross, Roberto Duran, Larry Holmes, Benitez-Hope.

Sept. 1981: Leonard-Hearns Program. Plus: *Ring* belt poster of Leonard-Hearns, Yaqui Lopez, Pipino Cuevas, Mickey Duff, Leonard-Kalule, Alexis Arguello.

Oct. 1981: (104-Page Issue)—Holmes-Cooney: Is It Is Or Is It Ain't? Plus: Who's who?, Rocky Graziano, Larry Holmes pinup, hardest hitting heavyweights, pound-for-pound best, Spinks-Mustafa Muhammad.

Nov. 1981: Salvador Sanchez: Boxing's New Conquistador. Plus: Alexis Arguello pinup, Latino boxers, Leonard-Hearns I, Sanchez-Gomez.

Feb. 1982: Holmes-Cooney Program. Plus: Dwight Braxton pinup, Irish fighters, Muhammad Ali, Pedroza-Ballas.

March 1982: (100-Page Year-End Special)—Sanchez & Leonard: Fighters Of The Year. Plus: Jeff Chandler pinup, Dwight Braxton, Navarette-Choi, Wilfred Benitez.

May 1982: Marvin Hagler: Is He The Greatest Middleweight Champ Ever? Plus: Salvador Sanchez pinup, great middlweight fights, southpaws, Primo Carnera, Fletcher-Braxton, Prudencio Cardona.

Aug. 1982: Cooney: Is He The Real McCoy? Plus: Sugar Ray Leonard pinup, Holmes-Cooney coverage, Howard Davis, British heavyweights, Larry Holmes, Limon-Navarette.

Sept. 1982: Leon Spinks: Boxing's Prodigal Son Returns To The Cruiserweights. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Sanchez-Nelson, Max Baer, Milton McCrory.

Nov. 1982: Special Pryor-Arguello Program. Plus: Earnie Shavers, Robeto Duran, Henry Armstrong, Gerry Cooney, LaPorte-Miranda.

Jan. 1983: Dwight Braxton: "How I Will Beat Spinks." Plus: Pryor-Arguello—Fight of the Year, Frank Fletcher, Rocky Marciano, Curry-Starling I, Hagler-Obel II.

Feb. 1983: Michael Dokes: Tainted Champion? Plus: Howard Cosell, Chacon-Limon, Mickey Walker, Ray Mancini.

March 1983: (104-Page Year-End Special)—Larry Holmes: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Donald Curry, Milton McCrory, history of featherweights.

April 1983: Randall "Tex" Cobb: Not Just Another Pretty Face. Plus: Hector Camacho, Hall of Fame (Monzon, Foster, Burley), Stanley Ketchel, Duran-Cuevas, Wilford Scypion.

May 1983: Michael Spinks Wins It All. Plus: Spinks-Braxton color, Bob Arum, Marvin Hagler, Collins-LaPaglia.

June 1983: What Now For Ray Mancini? Plus: Lupe Pintor, Tony Ayala, Mancini-Arguello color, Holmes-Teofilo Stevenson?, Jersey Joe Walcott, Jung-Koo Chang, Frazier-Broad.

July 1983: Jeff Chandler: The Best Fighter Nobody Knows. Plus: Sugar Ray Seales, Jack Dempsey, Bobby Chacon, Dokes-Weaver II, Holmes-Witherspoon, Paul Berlenbach.

Aug. 1983: Roberto Duran: One 'Mas' Time! Plus: After Holmes?, Colin Jones, Jimmy Montoya, Alexis Arguello, Billy Petrolle.

Sept. 1983: Exclusive: Sugar Ray Leonard Talks About His Past, Present, & Future. Plus: Hagler & Duran: 'How I'll Win The Fight,' Jaime Garza, Panama Lewis, Spinks-Mustafa-Muhammad, Bobo Olson, Jack Johnson, Mustafa Hamsho, Muniz-Chandler.

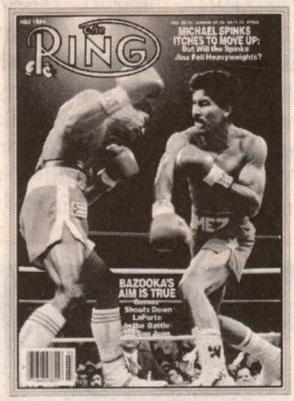
Oct. 1983: (104-Page Special)—Hagler-Duran Program. Plus: Best fighter poll, Who's who?, Jose Sulaiman, Billy McNeece, Marty Servo, Milton McCory, Collin Jones.

Nov. 1983: Gerrie Coetzee: The New Heavyweight Champ Sets His Sights On Holmes. Plus: Alexis Arguello, Murray Sutherland, James J. Braddock, Muhammad Ali.

Dec. 1983: Greg Page: 'Holmes Will Never Fight Me—He's A Chicken-Livered Coward!' Plus: Hagler-Duran, Tim Witherspoon, Jake LaMotta, Cedeno-Magri, "Winners" by Leroy Neiman.

Feb. 1984: Don King Talks And Talks And Talks. Plus: Leonard's return, Eddie Mustafa Muhammad, 1983 quotes, Marvin Hagler, Johnny Bratton, Gerald Hayes, Hagler-Duran color.

June 1984: Bumphus, Lockridge, Duva: 'That Championship Year.' Plus: Ferdie Pacheco, Harry Arroyo, Holmes-Coetzee preview, Pipino Cuevas, Aaron Pryor, Battling Nelson-Joe Gans, Witherspoon-Page.



JULY 1984

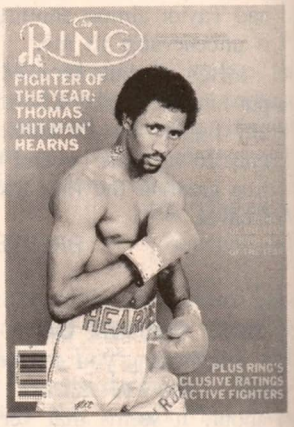
July 1984: Bazooka's Aim Is True: Gomez Shoots Down LaPorte In The Battle For San Juan. Plus: Michael Spinks, Vinny Pazienza, Tyrone Crawley, Leonard's comback, Chandler-Sandoval, Hagler-Roldan.

Sept. 1984: The Scramble For Bramble: Livingstone's Wrapped Up In Being A Champion. Plus: Hearns-Duran, Rosario-Davis, Aaron Pryor, Eusebio Pedroza.

Oct. 1984: The Beast From The East: John Mugabi Strikes Terror In The Hearts Of Men. Plus: Bill Costello, nine gold medals, Don King, Davey Moore, memorabilia.

Dec. 1984: Hagler Hammers Hamsho. Plus: Barry McGuigan, James Broad, boxing's best, Julian Jackson, Thomas-Witherspoon.

Jan. 1985: Holmes-Bonecrusher Color Action. Plus: Gerry Cooney, pro debuts (Breland, Hill, Taylor, Biggs, Whitaker, Holyfield), Santos-Medal, Meza-Garza.



MARCH 1985

Feb. 1985: Showdown: Page Clobbers Coetzee For WBA Title. Plus: Larry Holmes, lightweights, Cooney-Chaplin, McCallum-Minchillo.

March 1985: Fighter Of The Year: Thomas 'Hit Man' Hearns. Plus: Year-end awards, Darrell-Estrada, Nelson-Gomez, Arroyo-Alli.

April 1985: Special Hagler-Hearns Program. Plus: British fighters, Hector Camacho, Donald Curry, British fighters, Sonny Liston.

May 1985: The Rematch In Reno: Bramble-Mancini Color Action. Plus: Donald Curry, Aaron Pryor, McGuigan-LaPorte.

June 1985: Holmes' Last Hurrah? Holmes-Bey Color Action. Plus: Holmes vs. all-time greats, Paul-Arroyo, 1901.

July 1985: Marvelous Marvin! Are There Any More Mountains To Climb? Plus: Hagler-Hearns, 10 greatest first rounds, Tyson (2-0) rates the heavys, Tubbs-Page.

Aug. 1985: Seven Elected To The Ring Hall Of Fame (Jose Napoles, Jake LaMotta, Panama Al Brown, Manuel Ortiz, Young Stribling, Thomas Jackling, Lord Lonsdale). Plus: Spinks-Holmes preview, Barry McGuigan.

Sept. 1985: Barry McGuigan: Can He Be Boxing's Savior? Plus: Carl Williams, Thomas-Weaver, Chavez-Mayweather I.

Oct. 1985: The "Macho Man" Rides Again. Plus: Dwight Muhammad Qawi, Camacho-Ramirez, Berbick-Green, Jeff Fenech, John E. Garcia, McCallum-Braxton.

Nov. 1985: Will Hagler Feast On The Beast? Plus: Hagler-Mugabi & Hearns-Shuler previews, Lonnie Smith, Pintor-Meza, Chuck Hull, Benitez-Moley.

Dec. 1985: Michael Spinks: Against All Odds. Plus: Curry-McCrory preview, McGuigan-Taylor, Alexis Arguello, Michael Olajide, Chavez-Pratchett.

Jan. 1986: In Search Of A Heavyweight Champion. Plus: Azumah Nelson, Arguello-Jefferson, Olympic update, Chicago boxing.

Feb. 1986: Mike Tyson: The Legacy Of Cus D'Amato. Plus: Rocky IV, Curry-McCrory, Teddy Mann, Kenny Lane.

March 1986: Co-Fighters Of The Year: Marvelous Marvin Hagler & Donald Curry. Plus: Special year-end awards, 1985 boxing diary, annual ratings, Evander Holyfield, Fenech-Coffee.

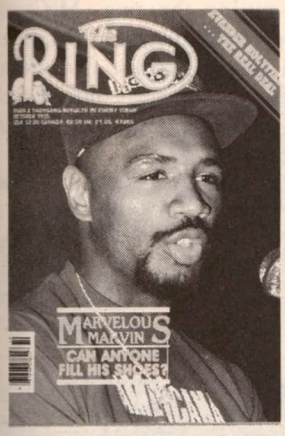
April 1986: Witherspoon Tames Tubbs For WBA Title. Plus: Dream fights, Greg Haugen, Tyrell Biggs, Mark Breland, Paul Gonzales, HBO tourney, Witherspoon-Tubbs, Frank Warren, Gene Tunney.

May 1986: Marvelous Marvin Tames The Beast. Plus: Hearns-Shuler, Mike Tyson, Bramble-Crawley, Sandoval-Canizales, Marvin Johnson, McGuigan-Cabrera, Arguello-Costello, Weaver-Williams.

June 1986: Barry's Back In The USA: McGuigan Breathes A Breath Of Fresh Air Into American Fight Scene. Plus: Bobby Czyz, Robbie Sims, Qawi-Holyfield preview, Berbick-Thomas, Bruno-Coetzee.

Aug. 1986: Is Sugar Ray Still Sweet? Plus: Lloyd Honeyghan, Tyson-Green, Cooney-Gregg, Hall of Fame (Eder Jofre, Benny Lynch, Bud Taylor, Sam McVey, Nat Langham, John Chambers), Bernardo Pinango.

Sept. 1986: Gerry Cooney vs. Mike Tyson: Who Would Win? Plus: Cruz-McGuigan, Hearns-Medal, Tyson-Gross, Sims-Duran.



OCTOBER 1986

Oct. 1986: Marvelous Marvin: Can Anyone Fill His Shoes? Plus: Tim Witherspoon, Holyfield-Qawi, Panama's champions, Frankie Duarte, Tyson-Frazier.

Nov. 1986: Mike Tyson: History In The Making. Plus: Tyson-Berbick preview, Spinks, Paul Gonzales, Bobby Czyz, Tyson-Ratliff, McCallum-Jackson.

Dec. 1986: The Weekend That Shook Up The Boxing World. Plus: Rosario-Bramble, Honeyghan-Curry, Butch Lewis, Buster Drayton, Johnson-Emebe, Raging Bull II.

March 1987: Mike Tyson: Can Anybody Beat Him? Plus: Dennis Andries, Richard Steele, Tyson-Berbick, Rickey Parkey.

April 1987: Hagler-Leonard Souvenir Issue. Plus: Czyz, Orlando Canizales, Mugabi-Thomas, Biggs-Snipes, Chavez-LaPorte, Bonecrusher-Witherspoon II, Haugen-Paul.

May 1987: Mike Tyson: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Year-end awards, *The Ring* annual ratings, Louie Espinoza, Herol Graham.

June 1987: Vinny Paz: Phenom Or Phony? Plus: Tyson-Bonecrusher, Mark Breland, Brian Mitchell, Evander Holyfield, Czyz-Edwards, Olajide-Lee, Curry-Montgomery.

July 1987: Spinks-Cooney: The Fight That Refused To Die. Plus: The new *Ring* ratings, Terry Marsh, George Foreman's return, Khaosai Galaxy, Hearns-Andries, Whitaker-Mayweather.

Aug. 1987: Sugar Ray: Still In Style. Plus: Leonard-Hagler, all-time heavyweight ratings, Czyz-MacDonald, Camacho-Davis.

Sept. 1987: Michael Olajide: The Look Of The Future? Plus: Tyson-Thomas, Jeff Fenech, middleweight muddle, Tsuyoshi Hamada, Juan Roldan, Harold Knight.

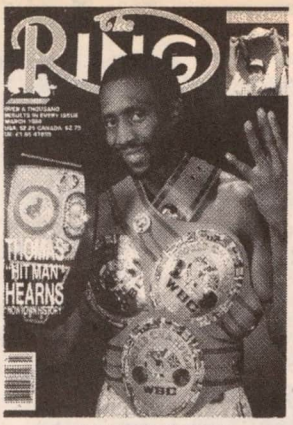
Oct. 1987: Special Hall Of Fame Issue: Ali Elected Unanimously! Plus: Hall of Fame directory, Spinks-Cooney, Pazienza-Haugen II, Aaron Pryor.

Nov. 1987: Tyson Wins Heavyweight Triple-Crown. Plus: Triple-crown champs, Matthew Hilton, Carlos Monzon interview, McCallum-Curry.

Dec. 1987: Spinks & Lewis: Boxing's Beastie Boys. Plus: Starling-Breland, Ramzi Hassan, Honeyghan-Hatcher, Holyfield-Ocasio.

Jan. 1988: Darrin Van Horn—Million Dollar Baby? Plus: Evander Holyfield, Hill-Stewart, Juan Coggi, great hookers, AIDS.

Feb. 1988: Gold Outshines Glitter: Tate Tops Olajide. Plus: Tyson-Biggs, Kalambay-Barkley, Hearns-Roldan, fights we'd like to see.



MARCH 1988

March 1988: Thomas "Hit Man" Hearns: "Now I Own History." Plus: Chavez-Rosario, Roger Mayweather, Rocky Lockridge, bleeders, Bruno-Bugner, Fenech-Zarate, Tony Burton.

April 1988: Evander Holyfield: Fighter Of The Year. Plus: Special year-end awards, Holyfield-Qawi II, Foreman-Sekorski, Hill-Angulo.

May 1988: Goorge Foreman: "I Can Beat Tyson." Plus: Tyson-Holmes, Jesse Benavides, Showtime, no-knockout artists.

June 1988: Sugar Ray Robinson Still The Sweetest! Plus: All-time middleweight ratings, Larry Holmes, Louie Lomeli, McGirt-Warren II, Haugen-Pazienza II.

July 1988: Special Tyson-Spinks Preview Issue. Plus: Donald Trump interview, Honeyghan-Vaca II, Foreman-Qawi, Barkley-Olajide.

Aug. 1988: Julio Cesar Chavez: The Kid From Culiacan. Plus: Holyfield, bad decisions, Lockridge-Knight, Starling-Breland II, Brown-Trice, Haugen-Santana.

Sept. 1988: Sugar Ray: Here He Comes Again! Plus: Andries-Czyz, Kid Chocolate, Don Dunphy, Don Lalonde, Andries-Czyz.

Oct. 1988: Mike Tyson: What Price Glory? Plus: Tyson-Spinks, Hearns-Barkley, Davey Moore.

Nov. 1988: Donny Lalonde: "Sugar Ray is Out Of His Mind!" Plus: Hall of Fame selections (Carlos Ortiz, Joe Brown, Billy Graham, Cus D'Amato, Jimmy Jacobs), Nunn-Tate, Molinares-Starling, Honeyghan-Chung, '88 Olympians.

Dec. 1988: Mike Tyson Special. Plus: Leonard-Lalonde preview, Barry McGuigan, alphabet wars, Jeff Fenech, Mauro Mina, Meldrick Taylor.

Jan. 1989: Meldrick Taylor: Philly Phenom. Plus: Marvin Hagler, Alex Wallau, Taylor-McGirt, Olympic results.

Feb. 1989: Julio Cesar Chavez. Plus: Chavez-Ramirez, all-time lightweight ratings, Louie Espinoza, Simon Brown, Roger Mayweather.

March 1989: Hearns Next For Sugar Ray? Plus: Leonard-Lalonde, Prince Charles Williams, Hearns-Kinchen, Nunn-Roldan, Hines-Hilton.

May 1989: The Best Of '88. Plus: Year-end awards, Evander Holyfield, Pryor-Morales, Fenech-Navarro.

Jan. 1990: Boxing's Bible Reborn At Age 68. Plus: George Foreman (color), Mike Tyson, Carlos Monzon, Duran-Leonard III, LaMotta-Dauthuille.

Feb. 1990: Riddick Bowe/Ray Mercer Target . . . Tyson: Plus: The Olympians as pros (color), Bobby Czyz, Gerry Cooney, Wepner-Liston, Bobo Olson.

March 1990: The '80s—Great Fights, Great Fighters (color). Plus: Jeff Harding, Evander Holyfield, Pete Rademacher, Sharkey-McCoy.

April 1990: Pernell Whitaker—*The Ring* Fighter Of The Year (color). Plus: Chavez-Taylor preview, Leonard-Duran III, Tiger Flowers, Muhammad Ali.

May 1990: Big George Talks Tough! Plus: Archie Moore, Moore-Marciano (color), Grudge Wars, Kid Berg, Ike Williams-Alexis Arguello.

June 1990: Buster! How James Douglas Shocked The World. Plus: Michael Moorer, Camacho-Paez, Tommy Farr, Excuses, Dick Tiger, Ruben Olivares-Jeff Chandler.

July 1990: "I'm Hungrier Than Ever Before!" By Evander Holyfield. Plus: Muhammad Ali painting, Ali-Liston II, New York welters, Michael Carbajal, Jorge Paez, Kid Gavilan.

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ROUND ONE

Forced retirement for Lalonde

GOODBYE AGAIN: Last May, former light heavyweight champion Don Lalonde suddenly retired on the eve of a title shot against Dennis Andries. The Canadian, a leader in the fight against child abuse, was no longer comfortable with the violence of boxing.

Like most boxing farewells, Lalonde's retirement was brief. Upon his decision to return, he was ranked first by the WBC. A title try against champion Jeff Harding was imminent.

Now Lalonde has retired again, but this time under very different circumstances. On March 18, Lalonde underwent surgery to repair injured thyroid cartilage.

"There wasn't much to protect the windpipe from another punch," he told *The Ring*.

After several throat specialists examined Lalonde, it was determined that getting hit in the throat was potentially life-threatening.

Lalonde, 30, leaves the ring with a record of 31-3 (26).

FIVE FOR THE AGES: Boxing nostalgia lives in Miami. The average age of the five boxing veterans in the accompanying photo is 81! Gathered together earlier this year were (from left) veteran cornerman Larry Golub, 87, trainer Larry Kent, 77, the legendary Ray Arcel, 90, who was visiting from New York, trainer Jerry White, 83, and trainer and former lightweight great Beau Jack, 67.

"And most of these guys are still working corners!" says Kent, who trains lightweight contender Freddie Pendleton. "Forty years ago, three doctors told me that if I didn't leave New York, they'd be coming to my funeral. I moved to Miami and I went to all their funerals."

CURIOSER AND CURIOSER: Last year in England, a fighter's mother rushed into the ring and attacked her son's adversary with a high-heeled shoe. Just when you think you've seen it all . . .

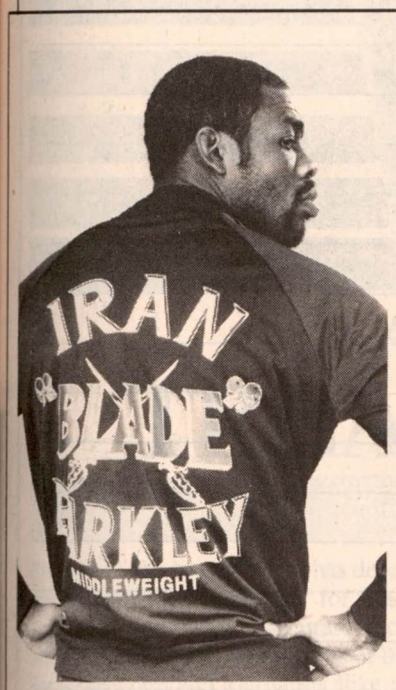
On February 18 in the Indian Ocean port city of East London, South African welterweights Norman Zwilibi and Xolani Sirunhu met in a scheduled six-rounder. In the third round, the fighters landed simultaneous left hooks to the jaw. Both crashed. Neither beat the 10-count. A double-knockout. And we thought it only happened with Hulk Hogan and his friends.

It gets weirder. In March, in Birmingham, England, amateur Geoff McCreesh answered the bell for the third and last round of his fight against an unnamed opponent. Seconds later, an unscheduled fight broke out just outside the ring. McCreesh couldn't resist. He climbed through the ropes and leaped into the first row to join the brawl. His cornermen shoved him back into the ring, but he was disqualified anyway.

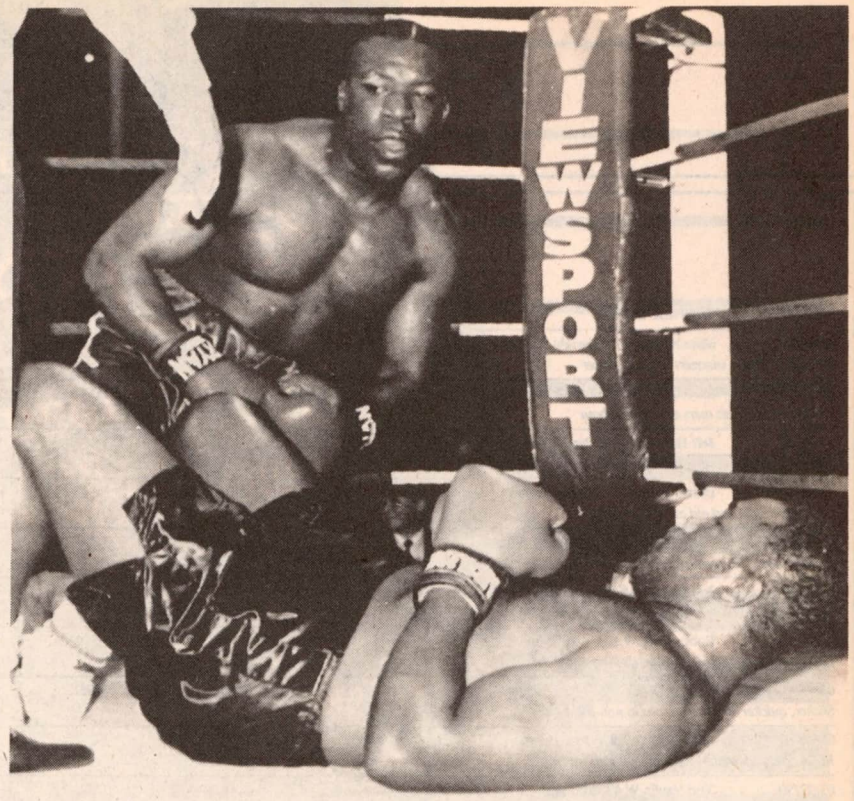
Hey, Don King, Bob Arum, and Dan Duva, how about promoting a free-for-all featuring Zwilibi, Sirunhu, McCreesh, and the mother with the shoe? Doesn't sound that different from Camacho-Pazienza to us.

The Sunshine Boys

OUTSIDE THE ROPES: Former junior welterweight champion Johnny Bumphus, 29, was arrested in Tacoma, Washington, for possession of crack . . . In New Jersey, former light heavyweight champion Mike Rossman, 33, was sentenced to five years' probation and a 364-day jail sentence to be served on weekends after pleading guilty to possession of cocaine . . . Butch Lewis has agreed to promote a monthly boxing series for the Black Entertainment Network (BET) . . . According to published reports, Bob Arum suspects that his stepdaughter, Tane Hamada, has embezzled as much as $350,000 from his promotional firm, Top Rank Inc. . . . The IBF is examining the possibility of returning to 15-round title fights . . . Larry Holmes boxed an exhibition with former contender Bernardo Mercado in Jakarta, Indonesia, fueling speculation that he's serious about returning to the ring . . . Manager John Reetz denied a published report that he and middleweight contender Iran Barkley were breaking up. But Reetz acknowledged that despite Barkley's recent ring earnings, the former WBC champion is almost broke . . . Former heavyweight contender Gerrie Coetzee was seriously burned in a welding accident on his farm in Johannesburg, South Africa. Coetzee suffered burns to his legs, face, and arms . . . Former IBF super middleweight champion Graciano Rocchigiani of West Germany was sentenced to two years in prison, without probation, in a West Berlin court. Rocchigiani was convicted of selling the services of a prostitute . . . Eyup Can, the Turkish-born, Denmark-based European flyweight champion, retired after a WBO title fight fell through. "I've been fighting since I was 13," he said, "and with no world title fight, I'll call it a day." The 26-year-old Can is 13-1 . . . Stranger Than Truth Department: Kurt Kristiansen, *The Ring's* European correspondent, reports that a Monsieur Kreitz of Luxembourg scored 11 of 12 rounds even in the European bantamweight title fight between Vincenzo Belcastro and Ronnie Carroll . . . Trainer Kevin Rooney, who earned millions as Mike Tyson's trainer, declared bankruptcy. He listed more than $1.4-million in debts and no assets. "I made a mistake," he said, "but I'm a guy that doesn't take money seriously."



Reetz: The Blade is broke



Gary Mason tops "Bigfoot" Martin

FEEL NO PAIN: On March 16, unbeaten British heavyweight Gary Mason underwent surgery to repair a torn retina in his right eye. The operation came two days after Mason's 34th victory, a decision over "Big Foot" Martin. Mason, who had been ranked ninth by *The Ring,* wanted to continue fighting, but it appears that his career is over.

Boxers often come to the aid of their own, and in England, a studio full of fighters gathered to record a charity record, titled *Feel No Pain,* for Mason and Horace Notice, another world-rated British heavyweight who was forced to retire due to injury. The event was sponsored by the British publication *Boxing Weekly.*

While there were no Michael Jacksons or Stevie Wonders at the recording session, the crooners included Commonwealth cruiserweight champion Derek Angol, junior lightweight contender Jim McDonnell, and former world flyweight champion Duke McKenzie.

Those interested in purchasing a copy of the record should contact *Boxing Weekly* at 24 Notting Hill Gate, London W 11.

THE PUNCHLINE: Trainer Joey Fariello, after being told that heavyweight Riddick Bowe had complained about the size of his boxing gloves in Atlantic City: "Riddick Bowe has more excuses than a 40-year-old virgin." ■

WATCHING TV

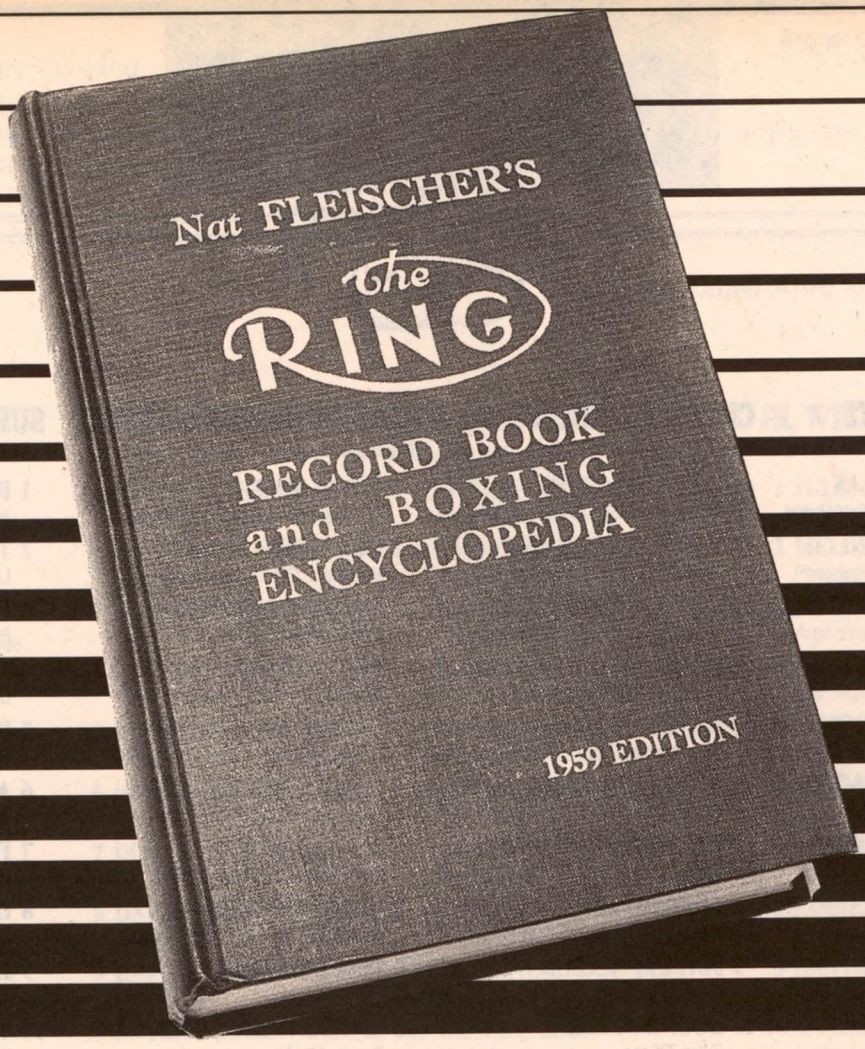
DATE	WINNER/LOSER	DIVISION	NETWORK	SIGNIFICANCE	MATCHUP	RESULT
03/16/90	Mike Hunter W 12 Dwight Muhammad Qawi	c	MSG	B	B	D
Cruisers turn into snoozers in minor upset						
03/17/90	**Julio Cesar Chavez KO 12 Meldrick Taylor**	**WBC/IBF jw**	**HBO**	**A+**	**A+**	**A**
Controversial finish mars exceptional bout						
03/18/90	**Jeff Harding KO 11 Nestor Giovannini**	**WBC lh**	**ESPN**	**A**	**B**	**B-**
Argentine challenger offers only counter rights, then poops out						
03/19/90	Darrin Morris KO 4 Reyes Cruz	w	SC	C	B	C+
Cruz looks slow and old at higher weight						
03/22/90	Ricardo Cepeda W 12 Roberto Rivera	f	MSG	C+	C	C
Cepeda hunts, Rivera runs for 12 one-sided rounds						
03/22/90	**Jeff Lampkin KO 3 Glenn McCrory**	**IBF c**	**USA**	**A**	**B+**	**B-**
Single hook to body fells defending champ for count						
03/23/90	Bobby Czyz W 10 Uriah Grant	lh	ESPN	B	B+	A
Early bell in last round tarnishes thrilling shootout						
03/25/90	Jesse Benavides W 10 Jesus Salud	jf	NBC	A-	A-	B
Slicker, quicker Texan triumphs in non-title bout						
03/26/90	Nate Miller W 12 Tyrone Booze	c	SC	B+	B	B-
Miller easily triumphs after phone booth warfare						
03/27/90	Yuri Vaulin W 4 Don Coats	h	USA	B-	C-	C-
Russian southpaw turns pro, doesn't impress						
03/31/90	**Terry Norris KO 1 John Mugabi**	**WBC jm**	**ABC**	**A**	**A-**	**B+**
Another shocker in a year of gigantic upsets						
03/31/90	Buddy McGirt KO 2 Tommy Ayers	w	CBS	B+	B+	B-
One overhand right ends Ayers' comeback						
04/01/90	Michael Carbajal W 12 Raul Acosta	NABF jfl	NBC	A-	B+	C+
Headed for title, Olympian wins every round						
04/01/90	Andrew Maynard W 12 Mike Sedillo	NABF lh	ESPN	A-	A-	B+
Winner rises from two knockdowns in tough fight						
04/01/90	**Simon Brown KO 10 Tyrone Trice**	**IBF w**	**ABC**	**A**	**A**	**A-**
Pumped up Brown too strong in grudge rematch						
04/02/90	Frankie Mitchell KO 7 Kent Hardee	jl	SC	B-	C+	B+
Technicians wage the bloodiest battle of the year						
04/03/90	Victor Davis KO 9 Vincent Pettway	w	USA	B-	B	A
Thrill a minute in minor upset						
04/04/90	Razor Ruddock KO 4 Michael Dokes	h	PPV	A-	A-	B
Among the most devastating kayos in recent history						
04/04/90	Bonecrusher Smith W 12 Mike Weaver	h	PPV	B	B+	D
Old-timers engage in dreadful snoozer						
04/04/90	**Juan Nazario KO 8 Edwin Rosario**	**WBA l**	**PPV**	**A**	**B+**	**B-**
New champ dominates in foul-plagued title-fight rematch						
04/05/90	Roger Mayweather W 12 Delmar Paisan	jw	ESPN	B+	B-	C
Paisan tries only in bout's second half						
04/07/90	**Jorge Paez W 12 Louie Espinoza**	**IBF f**	**NBC**	**A**	**A**	**B+**
Late rally enables Paez to retain title for seventh time						
04/07/90	Troy Dorsey KO 8 Bernardo Pinango	f	NBC	B+	B+	B-
Constant pressure wears down faded Pinango						
04/10/90	Angel Hernandez W 10 Al Hamza	jw	USA	B-	B-	C+
Winner remains unbeaten in sloppy, one-sided bout						
04/12/90	Kid Akeem KO 7 Cesar Martinez	NABF jb	ESPN	B+	B-	B-
Martinez, a one-day sub, gives decent effort						
04/14/90	**Mike McCallum KO 11 Michael Watson**	**WBA m**	**ABC**	**A**	**A-**	**B-**
Slow start costs one-dimensional challenger						
04/14/90	**Michael Nunn W 12 Marlon Starling**	**IBF m**	**HBO**	**A**	**B+**	**C**
Power shortage makes for dull showdown of champions						

Category explanation: "Significance"—The importance of the bout to the division and the fighters' future; "Matchup"—The quality of the fighters and the prefight determination of how their styles will mesh; "Result"—How the bout turned out, from the viewer's perspective.)

(World title fights in **bold** *type)*

Division key: h—heavyweight; c—cruiserweight; lh—light heavyweight; sm—super middleweight; m—middleweight; jm—junior middleweight; w—welterweight; jw—junior welterweight; l—lightweight; jl—junior lightweight; f—featherweight; jf—junior featherweight; b—bantamweight; jb—junior bantamweight; fl—flyweight; jfl—junior flyweight; s—strawweight.)

Network key: PPV—Pay Per View; PT—Prime Ticket; SC—SportsChannel America; Show—Showtime



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THE RING RATINGS

HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight Unlimited

1 **BUSTER DOUGLAS**
Columbus, OH *32-4 (World Champ)*

2 **MIKE TYSON**
Catskill, NY *37-1*

3 **EVANDER HOLYFIELD**
Atlanta, GA *23-0*

4 **RAZOR RUDDOCK**
Canada *23-1-1*

5 **TIM WITHERSPOON**
Philadelphia, PA *32-3*

6 **FRANCESCO DAMIANI**
Italy *25-0*

7 **CARL WILLIAMS**
White Plains, NY *22-3*

8 **TONY TUCKER**
Big Oaks, CA *37-1*

9 **ALEX STEWART**
Brooklyn, NY *24-1*

10 **RENALDO SNIPES**
Yonkers, NY *36-7-1*

CRUISERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 195 pounds

1 **CARLOS DeLEON**
Puerto Rico *42-5-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **TAOUFIK BELBOULI**
France *29-1*

3 **JEFF LAMPKIN**
Youngstown, OH *34-13-1 (IBF Champ)*

4 **ROBERT DANIELS**
Miami, FL *17-1 (WBA Champ)*

5 **NATE MILLER**
Philadelphia, PA *16-1*

6 **ANACLET WAMBA**
France *27-1*

7 **GLENN McCRORY**
England *27-6*

8 **MIKE HUNTER**
Las Vegas, NV *14-2-2*

9 **JOHNNY NELSON**
England *17-5-1*

10 **BOONE PULTZ**
Tyler, TX *18-0*

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 175 pounds

1 **VIRGIL HILL**
Las Vegas, NV *27-0 (WBA Champ)*

2 **PRINCE CHARLES WILLIAMS**
Mansfield, OH *28-4-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **MICHAEL MOORER**
Detroit, MI *19-0*

4 **JEFF HARDING**
Australia *17-0 (WBC Champ)*

5 **DENNIS ANDRIES**
Detroit, MI *36-8-2*

6 **LESLIE STEWART**
Trinidad & Tobago *27-5*

7 **JOE LASISI**
Las Vegas, NV *22-1*

8 **ANDREW MAYNARD**
Laurel, MD *11-0*

9 **ERIC NICOLETTA**
France *8-1*

10 **ANTHONY HEMBRICK**
Detroit, MI *13-0*

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT
Weight Limit: 168 pounds

1 **RAY LEONARD**
Potomac, MD *36-1-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **THOMAS HEARNS**
Las Vegas, NV *46-3-1*

3 **CHRISTOPHE TIOZZO**
France *26-0 (WBA Champ)*

4 **LINDELL HOLMES**
Detroit, MI *41-5-1 (IBF Champ)*

5 **IN CHUL BAEK**
South Korea *47-3*

6 **ANTOINE BYRD**
Los Angeles, CA *16-1-1*

7 **FRANK TATE**
Houston, TX *24-2*

8 **DARIO MATTEONI**
Argentina *24-1-1*

9 **JAMES KINCHEN**
San Diego, CA *47-7-2*

10 **VICTOR CORDOVA**
Panama *10-2*

LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 135 pounds

1 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Norfolk, VA *21-1 (IBF & WBC Champ)*

2 **JUAN NAZARIO**
Puerto Rico *22-2 (WBA Champ)*

3 **TRACY SPANN**
Plainfield, NJ *24-0*

4 **FREDDIE PENDLETON**
Miami, FL *24-17-3*

5 **GREG HAUGEN**
Henderson, NV *24-2-1*

6 **EDWIN ROSARIO**
Puerto Rico *35-4*

7 **JOHN DUPLESSIS**
New Orleans, LA *31-1*

8 **DAVID GONZALES**
San Jose, CA *23-1-1*

9 **POLI DIAZ**
Spain *28-0*

10 **PEDRO SANCHEZ**
New York, NY *15-0-1*

JR. LIGHTWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 130 pounds

1 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Ghana *31-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **JOHN-JOHN MOLINA**
Puerto Rico *21-2 (IBF Champ)*

3 **BRIAN MITCHELL**
South Africa *41-1-2 (WBA Champ)*

4 **JEFF FENECH**
Australia *24-0*

5 **TONY LOPEZ**
Sacramento, CA *34-2*

6 **GENARO HERNANDEZ**
Los Angeles, CA *18-0*

7 **BERNARD TAYLOR**
Knoxville, TN *41-2-2*

8 **JUAN LaPORTE**
New York, NY *36-9*

9 **JOEY GAMACHE**
Lewiston, ME *19-0*

10 **MARIO MARTINEZ**
Mexico *47-6-2*

FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 126 pounds

1 **ANTONIO ESPARRAGOZA**
Venezuela *29-1-4 (WBA Champ)*

2 **JEFF FENECH**
Australia *24-0 (WBC Champ)*

3 **JORGE PAEZ**
Mexico *35-2-2 (IBF Champ)*

4 **TROY DORSEY**
Dallas, TX *12-3-2*

5 **LOUIE ESPINOZA**
Phoenix, AZ *35-4-1*

6 **MAURIZIO STECCA**
Italy *36-1*

7 **PEE WEE PARKER**
Houston *21-3-2*

8 **MARCOS VILLASANA**
Mexico *49-7-2*

9 **RICARDO CEPEDA**
Bronx, NY *16-0-1*

10 **PAUL HODKINSON**
England *18-0-1*

JR. FEATHERWEIGHTS
Weight limit: 122 pounds

1 **DANIEL ZARAGOZA**
Mexico *40-4-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **JESSE BENAVIDES**
Corpus Christi, TX *30-1*

3 **JESUS SALUD**
San Diego, CA *32-4*

4 **SEUNG HOON LEE**
South Korea *44-6-1*

5 **WELCOME NCITA**
South Africa *25-0 (IBF Champ)*

6 **KENNY MITCHELL**
Houston, TX *20-8-3*

7 **PEDRO DECIMA**
Argentina *24-2*

8 **PAUL BANKE**
Quail Valley, CA *17-4*

9 **JEMAL HINTON**
District Heights, MD *12-0*

10 **NOREE JOCKYGYM**
Thailand *30-8-1*

How Our Ratings Are Compiled

- In each division, fighters are ranked according to their abilities and accomplishments.
- Being champion does not necessarily mean a fighter will be rated at the top of his weight class.
- These ratings reflect how the best fighters in the world rate against one another.

For Period Ended April 18, 1990

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 160 pounds

1 **MICHAEL NUNN**
Los Angeles, CA *35-0 (IBF Champ)*

2 **SUMBU KALAMBAY**
Italy *48-4-1*

3 **MIKE McCALLUM**
Brooklyn, NY *38-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 **ROBERTO DURAN**
Miami, FL *85-8*

5 **IRAN BARKLEY**
Bronx, NY *25-6*

6 **HEROL GRAHAM**
England *42-2*

7 **MICHAEL WATSON**
England *22-2-1*

8 **NIGEL BENN**
England *25-1*

9 **DOUG DeWITT**
Yonkers, NY *31-6-4*

10 **STEVE COLLINS**
Brockton, MA *16-1*

JR. MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 154 pounds

1 **JULIAN JACKSON**
Virgin Islands *38-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **GIANFRANCO ROSI**
Italy *48-3 (IBF Champ)*

3 **TERRY NORRIS**
Campo, CA *25-3 (WBC Champ)*

4 **JOHN MUGABI**
Tampa, FL *36-3*

5 **JOHN DAVID JACKSON**
Tucson, AZ *20-0*

6 **RENE JACQUOT**
France *26-7-1*

7 **DONALD CURRY**
Fort Worth, TX *32-3*

8 **DARRIN VAN HORN**
Lexington, KY *43-1*

9 **CHRIS PYATT**
England *29-2*

10 **JORGE CASTRO**
Argentina *43-1-2*

WELTERWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 147 pounds

1 **MARLON STARLING**
South Windsor, CT *45-6-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **SIMON BROWN**
Germantown, MD *32-1 (IBF Champ)*

3 **MARK BRELAND**
Brooklyn, NY *27-1-1 (WBA Champ)*

4 **BUDDY McGIRT**
Brentwood, NY *48-2-1*

5 **MAURICE BLOCKER**
Washington, D.C. *31-1*

6 **GLENWOOD BROWN**
Plainfeild, NJ *28-1*

7 **AARON DAVIS**
Bronx, NY *27-0*

8 **TYRONE TRICE**
Detroit, MI *36-3*

9 **ANTOINE FERNANDEZ**
France *32-1-1*

10 **GENARO LEON**
Mexico *34-2-1*

JR. WELTERWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 140 pounds

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Mexico *68-0 (WBC & IBF Champ)*

2 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Philadelphia, PA *24-1-1*

3 **JUAN COGGI**
Argentina *44-1-2 (WBA Champ)*

4 **ROGER MAYWEATHER**
Las Vegas, NV *36-6*

5 **HECTOR CAMACHO**
Big Cypress, FL *37-0*

6 **LORETO GARZA**
Sacramento, CA *26-1-1*

7 **FRANKIE RANDALL**
Morristown, TN *40-2-1*

8 **LOUIE LOMELI**
Melrose Park, IL *26-1*

9 **SANTOS CARDONA**
New York City *17-3*

10 **SAMMY FUENTES**
Puerto Rico *20-7-1*

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 118 pounds

1 **RAUL PEREZ**
Mexico *46-1-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **ORLANDO CANIZALES**
Laredo, TX *23-1-1 (IBF Champ)*

3 **LUISITO ESPINOSA**
Philippines *22-5 (WBA Champ)*

4 **GERARDO MARTINEZ**
San Jose, CA *23-0*

5 **ISRAEL CONTRERAS**
Venezuela *32-2-1*

6 **KAOKOR GALAXY**
Thailand *24-2*

7 **WILFREDO VASQUEZ**
Puerto Rico *28-3-3*

8 **PEPILLO VALDEZ**
Mexico *36-3*

9 **HURLEY SNEAD**
Detroit, MI *39-2-1*

10 **BILLY HARDY**
England *22-5-1*

JR. BANTAMWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 115 pounds

1 **KHAOSAI GALAXY**
Thailand *43-1 (WBA Champ)*

2 **MOON SUNG KIL**
South Korea *11-1 (WBC Champ)*

3 **NANA KONADU**
Ghana *18-1-1*

4 **GILBERTO ROMAN**
Mexico *53-5-1*

5 **JOSE RUIZ**
Puerto Rico *16-2*

6 **JUAN POLO**
Colombia *27-5-2 (IBF Champ)*

7 **THANOMSAK SITHBAOBEY**
Thailand *30-1*

8 **ROBERT QUIROGA**
San Antonio, TX *15-0*

9 **YONG HEUN LEE**
South Korea *14-0*

10 **KID AKEEM**
Las Vegas, NV *18-0*

FLYWEIGHTS

Weight limit: 112 pounds

1 **SOT CHITALADA**
Thailand *20-2-1 (WBC Champ)*

2 **YUL WOO LEE**
South Korea *19-2 (WBA Champ)*

3 **DAVE McAULEY**
Ireland *15-2-2 (IBF Champ)*

4 **JUNG KOO CHANG**
South Korea *37-2*

5 **JESUS ROJAS**
Venezuela *19-2-1*

6 **JAVIER LUCAS**
Mexico *37-5*

7 **RICHARD CLARKE**
Jamaica *22-2*

8 **LEOPARD TAMAKUMA**
Japan *25-4*

9 **ROMY NAVARETTE**
Philippines *36-9-1*

10 **YONG KANG KIM**
South Korea *19-2*

POUND FOR POUND

Boxing's 10 Best Fighters, Pound For Pound

1 **JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ**
Junior Welterweight

2 **PERNELL WHITAKER**
Lightweight

3 **MICHAEL NUNN**
Middleweight

4 **ANTONIO ESPARRAGOZA**
Featherweight

5 **MELDRICK TAYLOR**
Junior Welterweight

6 **BUSTER DOUGLAS**
Heavyweight

7 **MIKE TYSON**
Heavyweight

8 **AZUMAH NELSON**
Junior Lightweight

9 **RAUL PEREZ**
Bantamweight

10 **YUH MYUNG WOO**
Light Flyweight

KATZ SCAN

BOXING LOYALTY: PAINT IT GREEN

By Michael Katz

Cedrick Kushner wanted to make his point in front of the press. All during the prefight buildup of Michael Nunn-Marlon Starling, the talk and the stories had been about Nunn and what he had put the Goossens through. Michael biting the hand that had fed him. Michael "Loyal To" Nunn.

Does this look like a happy marriage? Actually, this photo of Michael Nunn and manager Dan Goossen was taken in 1989, long before the fighter and his handlers began having difficulties.

It had been ugly. Dan Goossen had mortgaged his house to get the money to start off the career of a fighter no one really wanted. Took him to the top. Made a boring stink-and-run exponent into a million-dollar fighter who could put snoozers in bed before he could put asses in seats. Then suddenly, there was Nunn's uncle calling Goossen "a liar and a thief," and Bob Surkein, the 70-year-old guru from the amateurs who had brought Nunn to Hollywood, saying bluntly it was "black on black"—Nunn's relatives and friends advising the fighter to break away from his white management. It was a story that had played before in boxing.

Kushner, the promoter of Starling, had sided with the Goossens. The morning of the Nunn-Starling weigh-in, the South African entrepreneur said, "When you get paid $1.2-million and have difficulty selling 1,500 tickets, you've got to think your manager has done a brilliant job."

This was not a black-white thing. As usual, it was green. Kushner had sided with the suits. His own fighter, Starling, had, of course, felt empathy for Nunn. No surprise. Starling, one of boxing's frequent-flyer butterflies, had dumped managers and trainers and promoters with consummate ease. It wasn't black-white when he got rid of Eddie Futch.

Now, the morning after, Kushner knew Steve Wynn, the owner of The Mirage hotel and the man dubbed "the Harold Smith of boxing" by HBO's Larry Merchant, was making a play for his gladiator. The promoter likes to tell of how he stood by Starling when everyone else thought the welterweight champion was through, how he spent his own money putting on shows for 300 appreciative spectators in the fighter's Hartford, Connecticut, hometown, how he had worked his fingers to the bone, and now that the big money was here, he was still not cut in because there was only one fight left on his contract.

In front of Starling, he asked the reporters whether it was "fair" or "decent" or "right" of Wynn to make a move. Wynn, obviously, was not interested in building a fighter. He just wanted the finished product for his glitzy customers. Kushner thought it rotten that the impresario approached the fighters directly.

"You forget," Starling said, "I am the manager of Marlon Starling."

Unquestionably, Marlon Starling the manager has a right to know what is available for Marlon Starling the fighter. Unquestionably, there's no way Kushner could be certain of Starling's loyalty. In a boxing world where relationships like Marvin Hagler and the Petronellis or Ray Leonard and Mike Trainer are out of the ordinary because they survive, it has become more and

more "What have you done for me lately?"

It is a conflict that will be around as long as the ring is gold, or even brass. But not only the names have changed. Lately, so have the perceptions.

The pendulum has swung, and it's knocking off the black hats and the white hats, making it difficult to figure out the good guys. Used to be that the simpleminded could just point the finger of accusation at the promoter or the manager and feel fairly secure he was aiming square at the bad guy. Used to be that the simpleminded could rush to the defense of the poor, oppressed, downtrodden fighter, the schnook who took the punches in the face while his money was being divided by the wise guys in the smoke-filled room.

But the pendulum has swung, especially the pendulum of public opinion. There's Mike Tyson turning his back on his friends, first for some evil-hearted woman, then for the purity of Don King. And Nunn, who at least had the courage to acknowledge Joe Goossen and bring his trainer back into his corner the night before the Starling fight. Nunn, who still seems bewildered, whether to remain with the people who nurtured him for almost six years or the ones who, either claiming blood or money, would separate him from the Goossens.

Tyson and Nunn offer the best current examples of what, of course, is nothing really very new. Jack Dempsey, for love of a woman, dumped Doc Kearns. There have been butterflies throughout boxing history.

Most of the time, you can't blame them. But with business booming thanks to pay-per-view television, and purses inflating faster than egos, the pressures upon these mostly unsophisticated athletes has become enormous.

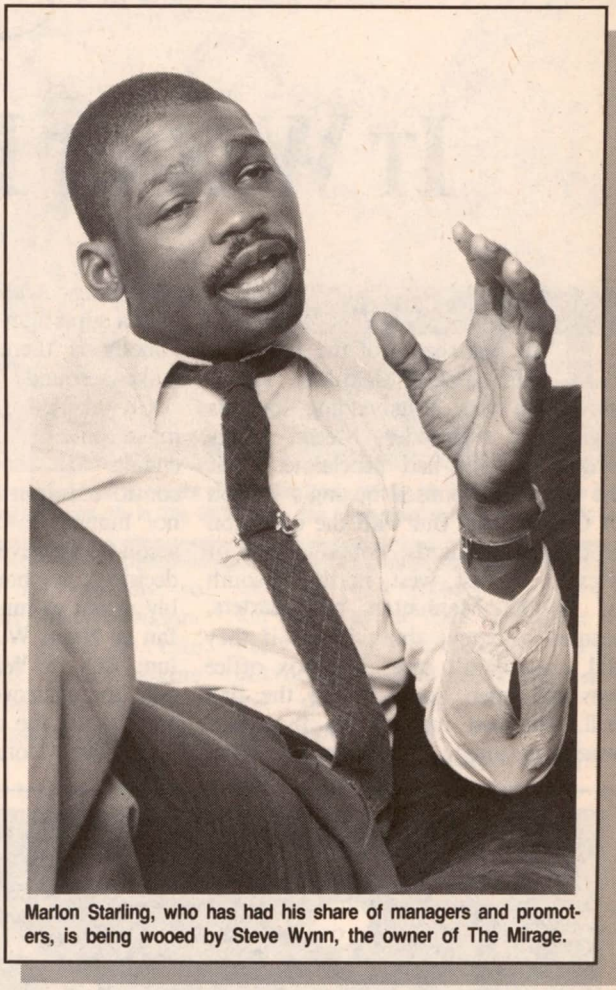
Remember the cast of characters: poor youngsters with little education, but an ability to earn millions in a largely unregulated business. The sharks always smell blood. What chance did Leon Spinks really have?

But the sharks aren't always dressed in suits. They can wear skirts. They descend from the family tree or rise from the neighborhood gutter. "Hey, champ, remember us? We were with you before you were a millionaire. Why those [white] guys have to make money off you when we can?"

Or they own casinos and figure it's easy to corner the market with some promises. So far, all James Douglas has received from Steve Wynn is a bungalow suite and a trip in a jet plane. The promised $60-million for two fights comes complete with a lawsuit and two pairs of lawyers.

It is Wynn's stated belief that the fighters, not the promoters and managers, should make the money. It is unstated, of course, that so should his casino.

Somehow, though, he becomes a sympathetic figure when Bob Arum and King break bread together in an effort to stamp out the man who has called them "dinosaurs." Wynn must have felt like the Poland of boxing with Hitler and Stalin making a pact to carve him up. Actually, he may be more like Zaire or Shelby, Montana, just another title-fight site being played for a sucker. So far, Wynn has staged two fights, Leonard-Duran III and Nunn-Starling, and one has been duller than the other. He has spent hard cash, like half-a-million dollars, to tie up Nunn, when he could have paid a lot less for some chorus-line dancer who has the same appeal.



Marlon Starling, who has had his share of managers and promoters, is being wooed by Steve Wynn, the owner of The Mirage.

Wynn is not the problem. Bottom line: He is no better, no worse than Arum or King. In fact, as the pendulum swings, keep in mind who is doing the swinging. Remember that Arum and King and Dan Duva have friends in the media willing to give their side of the same old story, how the poor old promoter or manager gets jilted by some pug who thinks the grass is greener somewhere else.

The fighters aren't all stupid. King tries to play the old black-white game with Douglas and the heavyweight's white manager, John Johnson, but so far the champion is showing the same smarts outside the ring that he showed in Tokyo. King demands loyalty from Chavez, but the great Mexican fighter was virtually ignored by his promoter, the same way that another wonderful fighter, Azumah Nelson, was ignored because of King's myopic concentration on the heavyweight division.

Loyalty goes just so far. Marriages end in divorce. Business partnerships dissolve into hatred. In boxing, there are as many double-crosses as there are double-hooks. You think it's different on Wall Street? As these morality plays unfold before us, all we can do is try to keep track of the good guys and the bad guys. It isn't easy. Some cases, you've got to believe in the fighter. Others, the pug is wrong, dead-wrong. Each case has to be judged on its own merit, or demerit.

Put it this way: I'd be less inclined to loan Mike Tyson a buck than Michael Nunn, but I'm pretty sure that Ray Leonard and Marvin Hagler and Mark Breland are honorable men who believe that the greatest loyalty is not to the dollar. And maybe instead of worrying about who the bad guy is in the ugly scenarios, we should be thankful that there are still some heroes unafflicted by amnesia. ■

RYAN

OUT LOUD

IT WASN'T IN THE STARS

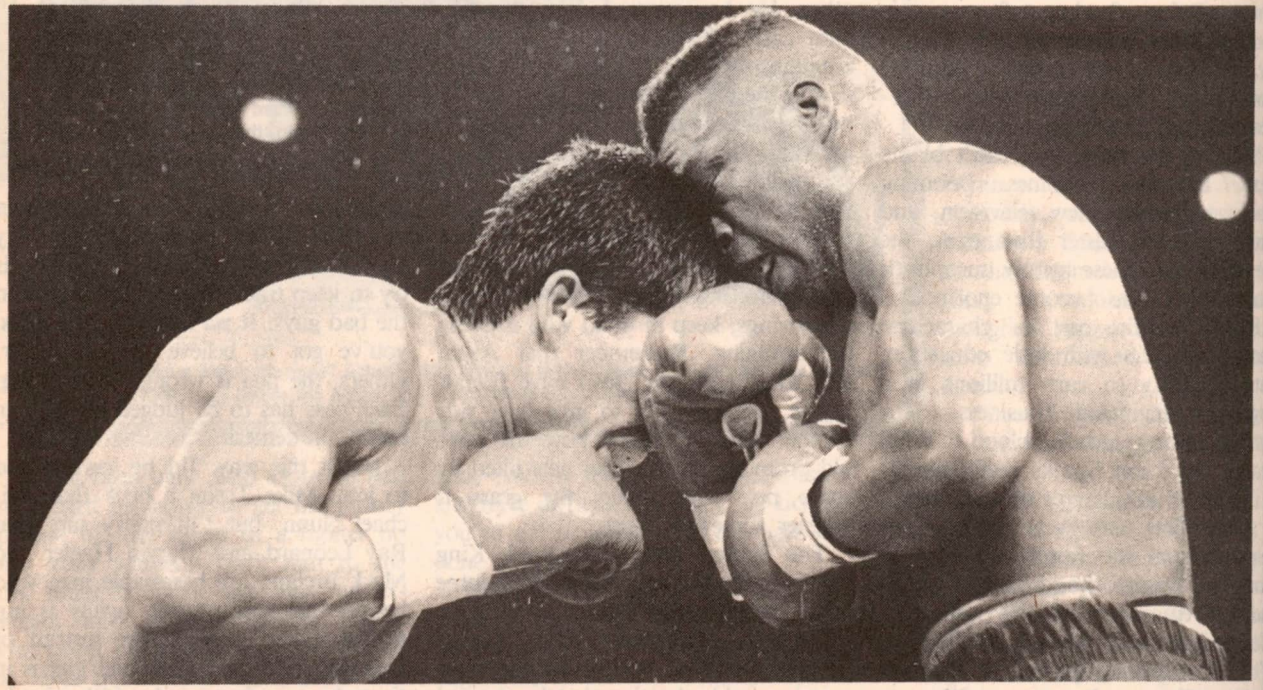
By Jeff Ryan

The real shame of the Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor showdown wasn't its ending, but its beginning. "Thunder Meets Lightning," the ads had proclaimed, and the forecast promised boxing's version of Cloud Nine. But with the exception of the true diehards, nobody north of Mexico, or east, west, north, or south of HBO's Manhattan headquarters, seemed to know about it. Or if they did, they didn't care. The box office was still open hours before the first bell. The best matchup in five years wasn't as tough a ticket as a matinee of *Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.*

If a superfight falls in the desert and nobody is there to hear it, does it make a sound?

Chavez-Taylor, it turned out, did make some racket, but only because its ending was the most dramatic and controversial in history. Had Chavez not hunted down Taylor in the final seconds, however, but instead lost a decision, the bout would have probably meant as much to the casual sports fan as Nunn W 12 Starling or McCallum KO 11 Watson. After all, even *with* the controversy, it garnered just a fraction of the attention of that other superfight, Donald Trump vs. Ivana Trump. And that despite the fact that the third person in *this* ring, Richard Steele, didn't spend weeks ducking the press the way Marla Maples did.

What is wrong with this picture? Why was boxing's dream matchup just a slumber party to the ticket-buying public? Why can't boxing sell its Super Bowl or Kentucky Derby as easily as it can its Ringling Brothers Circus or Three Stooges film festival? Why does a Camacho-Pazienza fashion show get more newspaper coverage than Chavez-Taylor? Why was ABC considering showing a George Foreman fight in prime time, something it wouldn't dream of doing with Chavez-Taylor,



Despite their titanic St. Patrick's Day struggle, Julio Cesar Chavez and Meldrick Taylor remain faceless to the masses. Is it the fault of the fighters, the promoters, the fans, or no one at all? Becoming a mainstream star takes timing and luck. Thus far, at least, Chavez and Taylor have enjoyed neither.

the best matchup boxing could offer?

Whose fault was it that boxing's best matchup was overshadowed by the preliminary rounds of the NCAA basketball tournament? Was it co-promoter Don King, who, in the weeks before the fight, lost his sense of hyperbole the way an old fighter loses his reflexes? Was it Taylor's manager, Lou Duva, who failed to engage in even one prefight pushing match, or insult the mother of at least one member or Chavez' entourage? Was it HBO, which showed more commercials featuring a vanquished Mike Tyson than it did hyping Chavez-Taylor?

No, the fault lies, to a small degree, with the fighters themselves, and to an even larger degree with nobody at all. First, the fighters. Consider: For the past two years, we've watched Chavez dismantle the best fighters in three divisions, and all the while listened to HBO's profiles tell us how Chavez was learning to speak English and aiming toward a future on Madison Avenue. It sounded farfetched at the time, and has since been proven to be total nonsense.

Two years later, Chavez' command of the English language consists of little more than "I want Camacho" and an occasional "thank you" to Larry Merchant after a postfight interview. On the night of his greatest triumph, Chavez spoke no English at all on HBO or at the postfight press conference. He will be 28 in July, has fought 68 times, and probably has no more than a year left at the top of the game. By the time he can speak English fluently, he'll be ready to start teaching it to his grandchildren.

Taylor *can* speak English, and is one of the genuine nice guys in the business, but his personality is more likely to land him on a bag of white bread than a box of Wheaties. Taylor wouldn't know an attention-getting quote if it hit him in the protective cup. I asked him what he thought the reasons were that his fight didn't capture the fancy of the masses. His answer sounded more like something he was trying to get himself to believe than anything resembling a handle on the situation.

"I think people identified me as a fighter on the uprise," he said. "I think because of my age [23], people didn't want to take me seriously, so the fight didn't get as much attention. In society, nobody wants to take young people seriously. I can't capture the attention yet, not like Leonard could. In time, I'll get some of that attention."

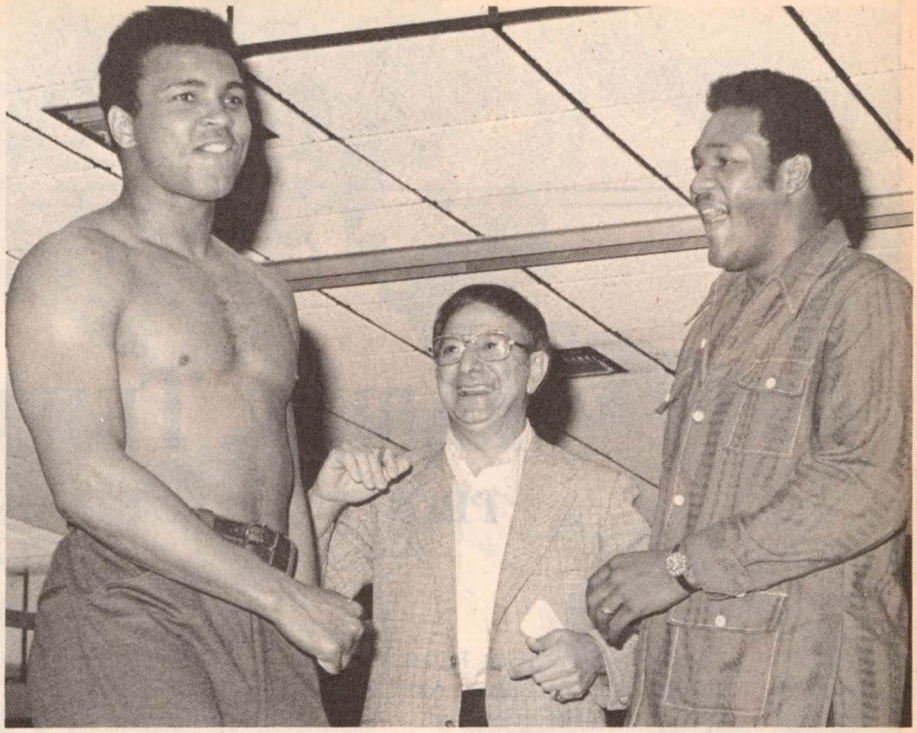
No, Meldrick, the truth is that you probably won't. But rest easy, kid. An awful lot of it has to do with something over which you and Chavez have no control. Maybe too many of us in this business have been overestimating the chances that you two guys, and the Nunns, Whitakers, and Carbajals have to become true superstars. Maybe your problem has a lot more to do with timing than anything else.

Maybe there will only be one Muhammad Ali and one Sugar Ray Leonard because there will only be one Vietnam era or one decade like the '70s that was screaming out for an American to dominate the Olympics and recover some of the nation's lost pride. If we can't repeat Woodstock no matter how many big concerts we hold on New York farmland, maybe we can't repeat Ali. If the space program will always be a letdown in the wake of that first walk on the moon, then maybe Taylor won't be Leonard, no matter what he accomplishes. Chavez just may be another Duran in terms of skill, but maybe he'll never utter the right quote ("Next time, I'll kill him") at the right time (after scoring a vicious knockout on a Saturday afternoon on CBS) and become an object of fascination to a whole generation.

Those lucky athletes who have become fixtures in America's living rooms have one thing in common: the fact that they unveiled their acts at the perfect moment. As a result, John McEnroe breaking a racket and losing 6-4, 6-4 to a no-name ranked 40 spots below him on the computer *still* draws higher Nielsen numbers than an afternoon of Ivan Lendl blasting pinpoint passing shots by Stefan Edberg. Jim McMahon wearing a headband or mooning a helicopter will always get more headlines than Bernie Kosar throwing for 300 yards. Foreman, because he is still remembered more for what he *was* than what he *is*, will always be a bigger star than Evander Holyfield.

Julio Cesar Chavez and Meldrick Taylor can train like Spartans for their rematch. They can correct whatever flaws remain, fine-tune the two best games boxing has to offer, and plan in every way imaginable to grasp the superstardom that has thus far eluded them.

But in the end, they'll find that they still can't get their timing down. ■



Muhammad Ali, who easily transcended boxing, fought at the right time. Among his foils was George Foreman, who seemed indestructible—until he faced Ali. In this 1973 photo, the heavyweights sandwich Angelo Dundee.

NEW FACES

FABIAN TEJEDA

PROFESSIONAL RECORD

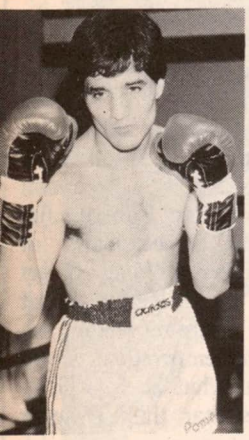
1988

Feb. 5	Ramon Arguello, San Rafael	KO 1
Aug. 20	Juan Contreras, Buenos Aires	KO 3
Nov. 11	Roberto Aguilar, San Luis	KO 2

1989

Jan. 7	David Yanez, Carlos Paz	KO 2
Jan. 21	Mario Viscaya, Carlos Paz	KO 3
Feb. 11	Jose Davila, Carlos Paz	KO 4
Feb. 25	Luis Rodriguez, Carlos Paz	KO 5
March 11	Hector Monje, Carlos Paz	KO 7
April 6	Raul Lopez, Carlos Paz	KO 2
June 16	Hugo Villaruel, La Rioja	KO 1
July 1	Omar Alegre, Buenos Aires	W Disq. 4
July 14	Mario Araya, La Rioja	KO 2
Aug. 4	Ruben Traba, Cordoba	KO 1
Aug. 18	Dante Molina, Cordoba	KO 2
Aug. 25	Roberto Real, La Rioja	KO 10
Oct. 6	Ruben Silva, Cordoba	KO 5
Nov. 4	Jose Llanquin, Buenos Aires	KO 8
Dec. 1	Dante Molina, La Rioja	KO 1
Dec. 16	Jesus Gil, Buenos Aires	W 10

RECORD:	FIGHTS	WON	LOST	DREW	KO
	19	19	0	0	17



By Carlos Irusta

The lightweight division has always been among the most talented in Argentine boxing, despite the fact that the boxing-rich country has never produced a world champion in that class.

Justo Suarez became the country's first national idol before being kayoed in the United States by Billy Petrolle in 1931. Jose Maria Gatica became a national sensation before he was defeated in the States by Ike Williams in 1951. Nicolino Loche, a national hero and arguably the finest Argentine fighter ever, was a great boxer at lightweight, but he is best remembered as the WBA junior welterweight champion and a leader at 140 pounds in the early-'70s.

The tradition continues: A young and exciting lightweight has appeared on the Argentine panorama. Southpaw Hector Fabian Tejeda is the Argentine 135-pound champion and his country's "Mr. Kayo." As he continues to punch, he's beginning to turn his father's dream into reality.

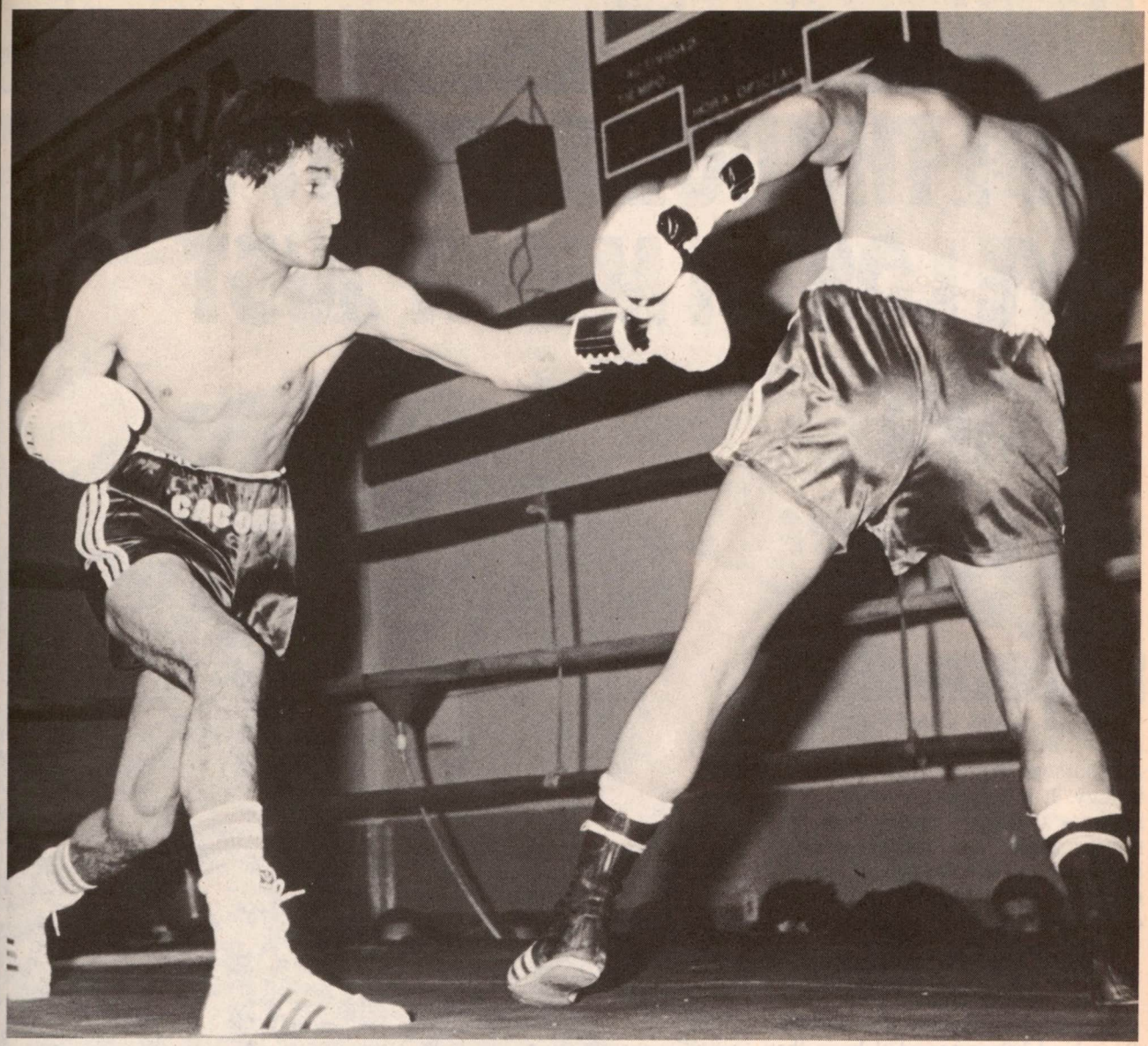
Tejeda was born in Avellaneda, Buenos Aires. His family frequently resettled, and when he was 16, the Tejedas arrived in Mendoza, the land where great champions Pascual Perez and Loche were born. Tejeda went to high school there and began playing soccer. Boxing was not yet on his mind, but it was in his blood. Tejeda's father, Julio Dionisio Tejeda, was a pro in the '60s, when he engaged in 100 amateur and 67 pro bouts, including draws with former national champions Anibal DiLella and Esteban Osuna.

"My [true personality] was in my temper," says the 22-year-old Tejeda. "I used to start fights during the soccer games. The referees used to suspend me, and I started to go to boxing gyms."

Tejeda's boxing career was born. As an amateur, he had 52 bouts and lost only four, with 40 of his 48 wins by knockout. It was in his last amateur fight that Tejeda's stock began to rise.

"I fought with Daniel Torres and I kayoed him in the first round," he recalled. "Marcelo Tejero watched me, and after that, I started to work with him in Carlos Paz, Cordoba."

Marcelo David Tejero is a solid and silent worker and a former boxer who trained for years at the legendary Mocoroa Boxing Club in Mendoza City. At the club, talented professor Francisco Bermudez developed boxers such as Loche, three-time world title challenger Jorge Ahumada,



Argentine southpaw lightweight Fabian Tejeda follows through with his powerful left against Jose Llanquin in Buenos Aires. Tejeda, one of the most exciting South American prospects in years, scored a kayo in round eight.

and former junior bantamweight champion Gustavo Ballas, among others.

Tejero started his own gym at the start of the '80s, and worked with flyweight champion Santos Laciar.

"Now I have a great challenge with Tejeda," says Tejero. "He is a natural southpaw with a tremendous punch. He is really a one-punch kayo artist, but he needs improvement, especially in the defense. I'm thinking of changing his guard, as I did with Ahumada at the start of his career. A southpaw who works with his right hand for openings can be tremendous."

Tejeda has been moved quickly by manager Francisco Giordano. When Tejeda fought for the vacant national title last November, he was undefeated in 16 bouts, with 15 kayos and one disqualification win. (The champion, Alberto Cortes, vacated the throne and unsuccessfully challenged world junior welterweight champion Julio Cesar Chavez.) Tejeda seemed to tire in the fifth round of his bout with the difficult Jose Llanquin at the Argentine Boxing Federation Stadium in Buenos Aires, but he regained control in the seventh. In the eighth, he connected with a short left cross to the chin and a right to the head. Llanquin fell and was counted out.

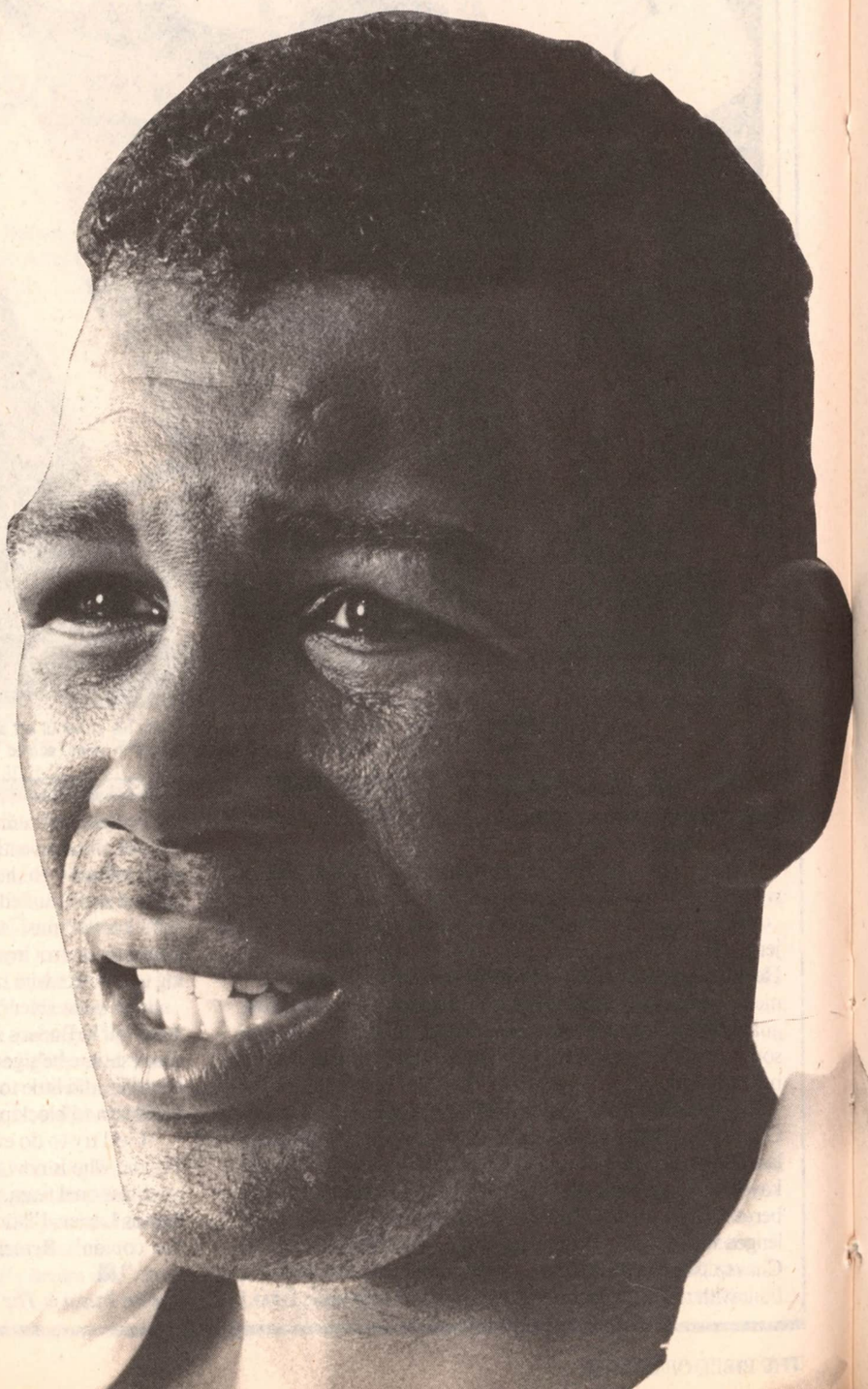
"I know I must learn a lot, especially in my defense, and I have to control my temper," Tejeda said. "I'm always trying to connect with my punches; this is my style."

In his most recent effort, a non-title 10-rounder against Jesus Gil in Buenos Aires, Tejeda won by decision. It was the first time he's gone the distance as a pro. The victory, however, did little to answer the lingering question: Can Tejeda learn to block punches?

"I will try to do everything—including to learn," said Tejeda, who is now ranked 12th by the WBC. "I'm part of a professional team, with a great professional companion in Santos Laciar. I'll do my best. I will try to win what my father couldn't. Remember, I have boxing blood in my veins." ■

Carlos Irusta is The Ring's correspondent in Argentina.

"IF I THOUGHT ABOUT WHAT I'VE LOST, I MIGHT JUST START CRYING"



By Joseph C. Tintle

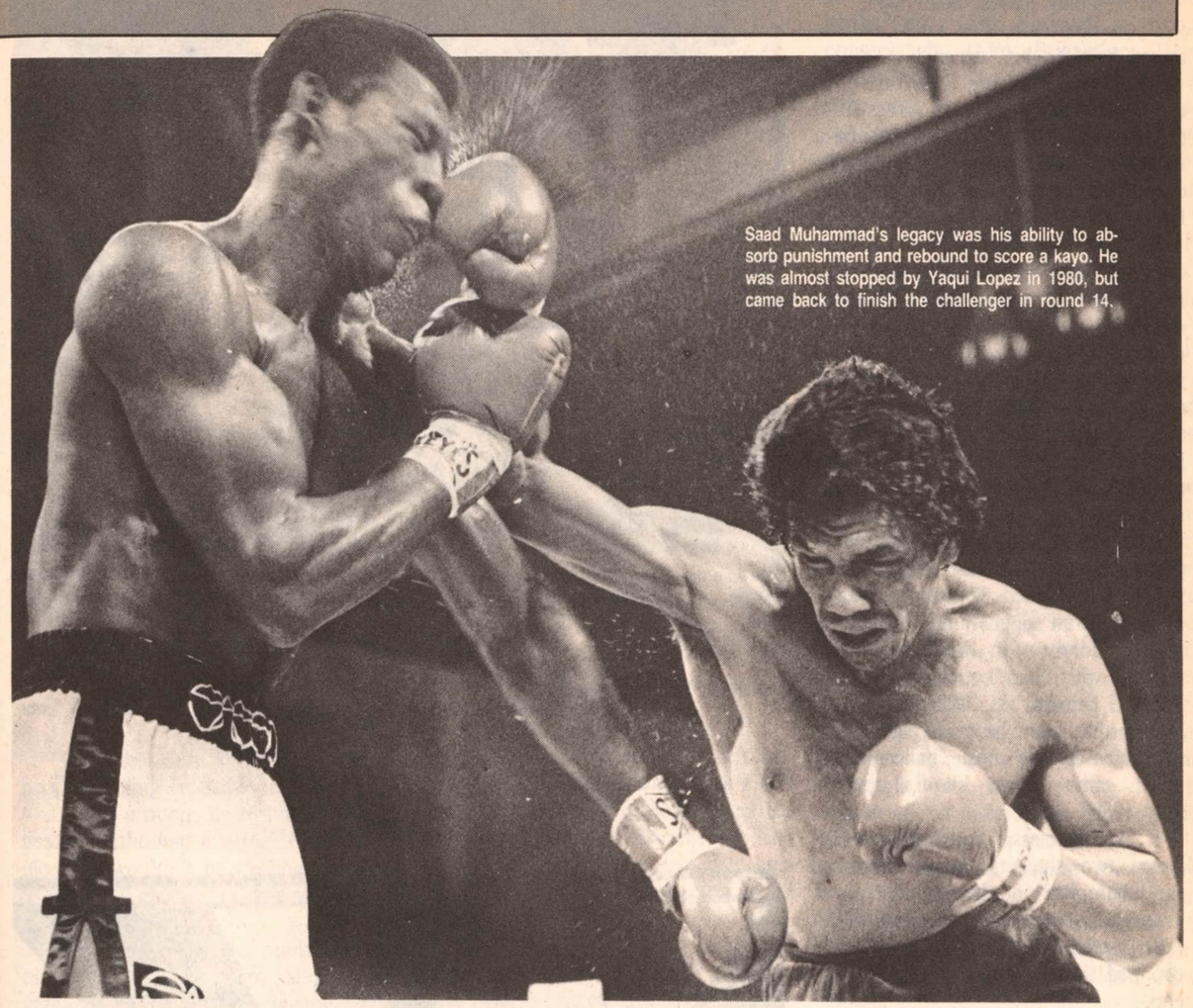
Matthew Saad Muhammad is driving his Volkswagon Jetta through the backstreets of Atlantic City. It is a dreary, lonesome, and sad area that is estranged from the thriving hotels and casinos on the Boardwalk. The two-family houses that dot the bleak landscape are deserted and seem ready to crumble.

"Gotta track down a boxer," Saad says, shaking his head in disgust. "Name's Robert Goulet. He's got a fight comin' up Sunday with Riddick Bowe, and he's supposed t' be in the gym anyway. I don't know what kinda shape he's in. I know he can punch, but that's all I know."

Saad is a low-paid trainer these days. A decade ago he was the high-paid WBC light heavyweight champion, a multimillionaire who lived in a sprawling split-level home in Jenkintown, Pennsylvania. He drove a Rolls-Royce, and when the Rolls was in the garage for an oil change, he tooled around in a Mercedes-Benz or a BMW. The world was his until he lost his knockout punch and the miraculous recuperative powers that had led to countless come-from-behind victories.

"Yeah," he says, as the windshield wipers squeak against the rain-swept glass, "this guy I'm looking for works in the Motor Vehicle inspection station. It's somewhere around here."

The ex-champion runs a stop sign



Saad Muhammad's legacy was his ability to absorb punishment and rebound to score a kayo. He was almost stopped by Yaqui Lopez in 1980, but came back to finish the challenger in round 14.

on New Jersey Avenue, but doesn't notice. He's too concerned about finding his fighter.

Saad works with amateurs and pros in Joe Mari's Boxing Gym, which is on Atlantic Avenue, two blocks from the Boardwalk. Neatly dressed and well-groomed, he weighs a hard 185 pounds. He *looks* as if he can still fight. Saad's career really ended eight years ago, but he has yet to admit it to himself. In fact, he believes he'll get another title shot. His friends and acquaintances don't share his belief, but most of them won't tell him to his face. They find it easier to pat him on the back and say, "Go get 'em, Saad. You can do it. You're still the champ."

And he believes them.

"I know I can beat the fighters out there today," he says with the conviction that once made him a world champion. "Jeff Harding, Michael Moorer, Virgil Hill, Prince Charles Williams; they know I still got it. Hey, I challenge them, right here and now, t' fight me."

When reminded that in February he had been knocked out in the third round by Markus Bott, a West German cruiserweight with four fights of pro experience, the 35-year-old Saad, like all shot fighters, looks for an excuse. "Look, I just wasn't up for that fight," he says, turning his car down a raw, empty street toward the inspection station. "It wasn't a title fight. My head wasn't in it. Anyway, I'll be better when I move back down to light heavy."

He pulls the car to the side of the road and parks near an empty field that's littered with cans, paper, tires, and broken bottles. Tied to an old, leafless tree is a mutt of a dog whose curled-up lip reveals terrifying fangs. The sky is overcast, and the chilly rain beads on the faces of passing residents.

A man, hands stuffed into his coat pockets, walks by. Saad spots him and says, "Hey, where I can find Robert Goulet?"

"The singer?"

"No, the fighter."

The man thinks for a moment. "Oh—Robert *Colay*," he says, pointing. "Over there, by the gas pump."

Saad approaches Colay and exchanges pleasantries before they walk back to the car.

"So what's this all about?" says Colay, a 6'4" heavyweight, who was once knocked out by Mike Tyson.

"Joe Mari's got a fight for you on Sunday. You'll be fightin' Riddick Bowe on TV."

"How much?"

"Ask Joe."

Later, as they pull up to the gym, Saad says, "Start workin' out. I'm going to lunch. Be back in a while. We'll

work on somethin' for Sunday. I'll be in your corner."

"Hey, thanks, man."

After Colay leaves, Saad says, "T' tell you the truth, I'm kinda embarrassed bein' in his corner."

A few minutes later, Saad arrives at the Garden Inn Restaurant across from the Taj Mahal Casino Resort. Amid a wash of friendly voices, the fighter discusses his career and his return to boxing.

As the outside light catches his face, one can see traces of nicks and cuts from past fights that subtly mar his otherwise handsome countenance. Never a stylish boxer, Saad seldom took a step backward during his fights. Nor did he duck a punch. Simply put, Saad was a magnificent brawler who fell behind early in fights, only to find a way to knock out his opponents before the final bell.

Most brawlers do not remain champions for long. But Saad's light heavyweight reign lasted 32 months, beginning with an eight-round TKO over Marvin Johnson in April 1979, and ending with his knockout loss to Dwight Braxton in December 1981. During that span, he made eight grueling defenses, the most challenging of which came against Yaqui Lopez in July 1980.

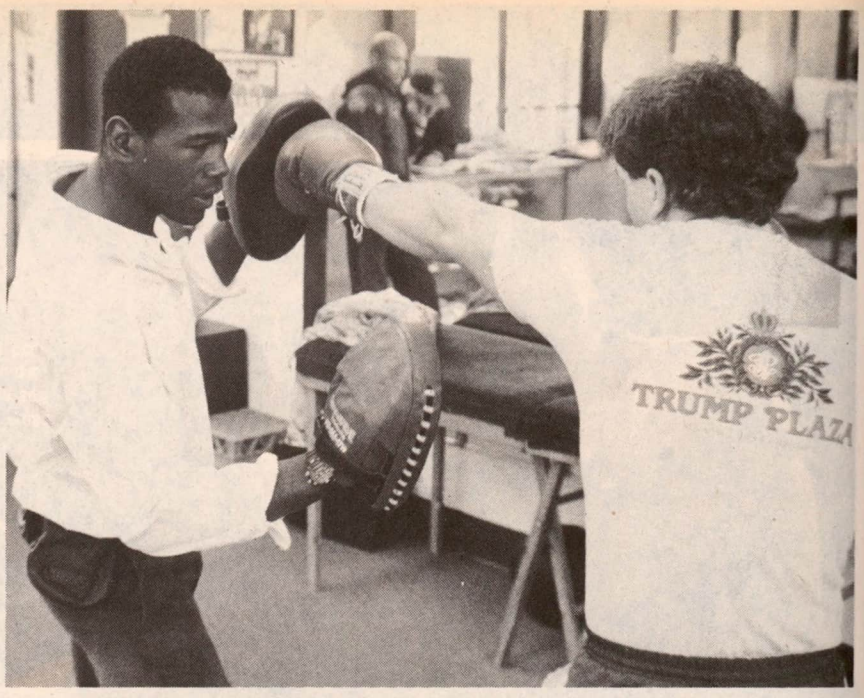
It was a classic confrontation between two sluggers. Lopez punished the champion in the eighth round. Though his knees buckled, Saad didn't fall. Instead, he lashed out and nearly dropped the challenger by the round's end.

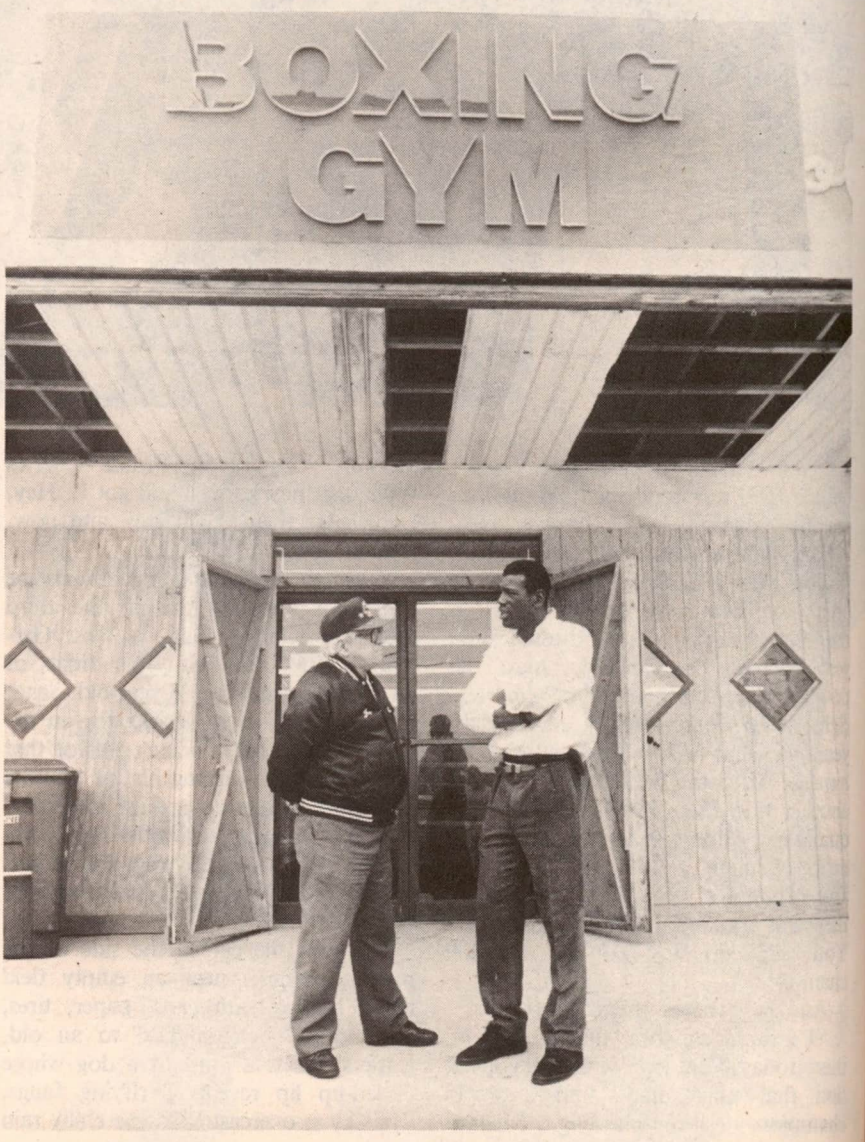
"I thought Yaqui was just an old war horse," Saad says, "but he still had some kick in him."

By the 10th, Lopez had weakened, and in the 14th Saad knocked him down four times en route to a stoppage victory. The bout was voted Fight of the Year by *The Ring*.

But the accumulated effects of one brutal fight after another had worn down Saad by the time he defended against Braxton. Saad suffered an extended beating, and in their August 1982 rematch, Braxton further punished him. The sixth-round knockout effectively ended the career of one of boxing's most courageous fighters. But Saad fought on, losing to Eric Winbush in March 1983. Six months later, he TKO'd Larry Davis, but was then knocked out in 11 rounds by Willie Edwards in February 1984.

After that, Saad left boxing for almost two years. He started a limousine service and a seafood restaurant.





Still an active fighter, Saad is also working as a trainer (above) at Joe Mari's gym in Atlantic City (below). He'll never, of course, find a way to give the youngsters the heart that made him a champion.

Elaine Muhammad is Saad's second wife. "I don't want him taking any more punches than he has up to now," she says. "Will he survive today and become punch-drunk tomorrow?"

"They fell through because I had people stealing from me," he says. "I was never around the businesses much because I thought everybody would be nice and wouldn't be stealing. In a lot of ways, I guess, I'm my own worst enemy."

Saad then turned to modeling and did high-fashion runway shows and magazine spreads in *Playboy, US, Life, Gentlemen's Quarterly,* and *Essence*. "But male models don't get the big money that female models do," he says, "and I couldn't offset the money problems I was having at the time. I'd spent, spent, spent, and had paid every one of my 17-member entourage $500 a week for a couple of years. That, plus tax problems, led to bankruptcy, and eventually I lost my home in 1984."

A divorce followed, and a budding acting career failed. Suddenly the once-confident Saad Muhammad was no longer smiling his little kid's smile.

"My self-worth was hurting something fierce," he says. "I so wanted t' be successful again. But I thought the only way I could do it was through boxing. After all, I was once a great warrior and a great champion, all of which made me a wealthy man. And I wanted t' be all those things one more time. So, once again, I put on the gloves."

Saad's second wife, Elaine, a reservations manager at Trump Plaza Hotel and Casino, met him long after the championship days had ended. And though she understands why her husband continues to fight, she abhors the sport and the fact that he still boxes.

"Saad's problem is that he doesn't feel he can do anything else," she says. "He wants quick money. But he should start realizing that these 20- and 30-year-olds can beat him.

"I happen to love him and I want to grow old with him. I don't want him taking any more punches than he has up to now. I worry every time he steps in the ring. Will it be the last time I see him? Or will he survive today and become punch-drunk tomorrow? I've said all this to him, but he says a man must do what a man must do. But to me he is endangering his health and tarnishing the championship he once held."

Elaine also believes that Saad cannot focus on his job as a trainer because he's still dreaming the impossible dream.

"I keep telling him that he has to be totally committed to the kids in the gym," she says. "He has to make the time for them. His fighters have more loyalty to him than he has to them. But by thinking about this comeback, he's not putting his full efforts into his job as a trainer."

The young fighters in Joe Mari's gym, however, seem glad to have Saad working with them.

"Saad's got all the patience in the world," says Chris Reynolds, a young cruiserweight from Brigantine, New Jersey. "Not only is it great having a man with his experience to teach us, but he's made us realize how intricate the sport is. And he can bring it together and break it down. That's the mark of a good teacher."

But Elaine Muhammad has a point: Whenever the conversation turns to training, Saad brings it back to his anticipated title shot.

Bernard Fernandez, the boxing columnist for the *Philadelphia Daily News*, has known Saad for several years and remembers the days when Saad used to drink in the punches.

"I don't think he has a firm grip on reality," Fernandez says. "Not from the standpoint that he's whacked out; he just remembers himself the way he was, and he just doesn't want to see the way he is. Sure, he looks good and he sounds good. But watch him fight. There's nothing there."

Nigel Collins, the former Editor-in-Chief of *The Ring*, says, "Some guys slow down gradually, but Saad went overnight. With him these days, it's a matter of self-delusion. In that way, he can hold on to his sanity."

Since resuming boxing four years ago, Saad has gone 5-4-1, fighting in Trinidad, Australia, and the Bahamas, as well as such fistic havens as Weirton, West Virginia, and Newark, New Jersey.

"I don't like fighting in tank towns," says Saad, whose record now is 38-11-3 (28). "But you got t' do what you got t' do."

The closest Saad Muhammad comes to fighting world champions these days is when he spars with Thomas Hearns and Jeff Harding. The checks he receives for those sessions, his occasional fight purses, and his wife's salary, provide the Muhammads with a comfortable life in Pleasantville, New Jersey.

Saad's voice begins to crack when he considers what he once had.

"All that is gone now," he says. "But I block it out because if I thought about what I've lost, I might just start crying."

Then he smiles and adds, "Can't think negative. Got t' think positive, and never give up on myself and the title shot."

Matthew Saad Muhammad may have found Robert Colay, but he's still searching for himself. ■

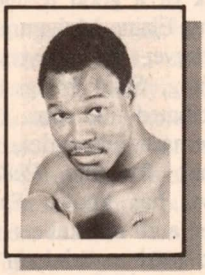
BATTLE OF THE LEGENDS

HEAVYWEIGHTS

Fight fans will forever debate the merits of champions from different ages. In "Battle Of The Legends," the editors of THE RING play matchmaker and pit two of the all-time greats against each other. Three experts serve as judges. If there are particular dream matches that you'd like to see featured, please write to us

Larry Holmes

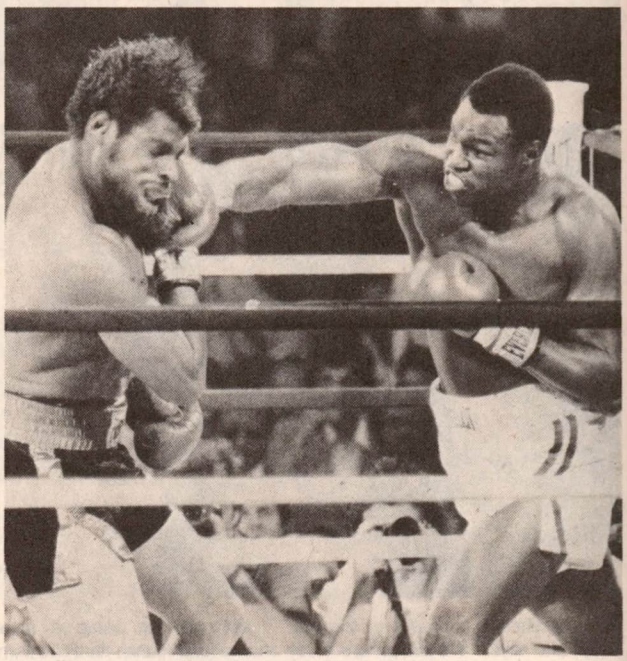
Easton, Pennsylvania
1973-1988
48-3 with 34 kayos



On June 9, 1978, Larry Holmes won the WBC heavyweight title via split decision over Ken Norton in one of the greatest title fights ever. Holmes was staggered several times late in the fight, but rallied back each time it seemed he would fall. Although he never unified the title, for the next 7½ years Holmes was considered the real heavyweight champion, successfully defending the crown 20 times.

Holmes had an excellent jab and a strong right, known as "Big Jack." A gutsy champion, he showed great recuperative skills, rising from knockdowns in defenses against Renaldo Snipes and Earnie Shavers. In his most impressive performance, however, Holmes didn't need to rally; he dominated Gerry Cooney throughout their heavily hyped superfight, methodically picking him apart en route to a 13th-round triumph.

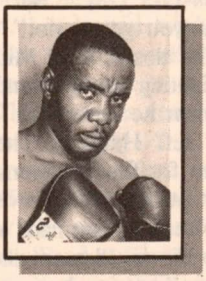
Like most champions, Holmes stayed around too long. In a defense that would have enabled him to tie Rocky Marciano's all-time best 49-0 career record, Holmes lost a 15-round decision to Michael Spinks. He lost the rematch as well, and after a brief retirement, returned for a knockout loss against Mike Tyson.



Larry Holmes' most destructive performance may have been his third-round kayo of Leon Spinks in June 1981. Holmes scored stoppages in 11 of his first 12 title defenses, with only Trevor Berbick lasting the distance.

Sonny Liston

Denver, Colorado
1953-1970
50-4 with 39 kayos



Sonny Liston was one of the most menacing and powerful heavyweights ever. His destructive jab came at the end of an 84-inch reach—the second-longest of any heavyweight champion. Seven of his wins against top-10 heavyweights lasted a total of 14 rounds, and he was one of the few challengers to enter a title fight as the betting favorite.

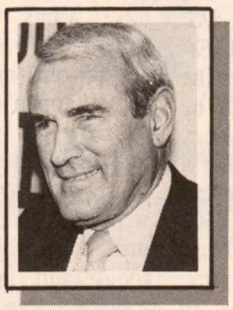
Liston won the title with a first-round kayo of Floyd Patterson on September 26, 1962. In his only successful defense, he again kayoed Patterson in the first round.

Because of the controversial endings of his fights with Muhammad Ali, Liston isn't given the credit he deserves. After his two stoppage losses to Ali, he fought on in obscurity, never threatening to regain the crown. On December 30, 1970, Liston, age 38, died in his Las Vegas home of an apparent drug overdose.

If a man is to be judged by the size of his funeral procession, Liston couldn't have been as nasty as his image suggested. A celebrity-filled crowd of approximately 800—including the musical group The Inkspots, which sang Sunny*—paid its respects to the 23rd heavyweight champion of the world.*

GIL CLANCY

Holmes had one of the best jabs in the business. But Liston's was a much stronger jab; it was the main part of his arsenal. Everything Liston did worked off the jab. Holmes would try and nullify Liston's jab. But I don't think anybody could outjab Larry.

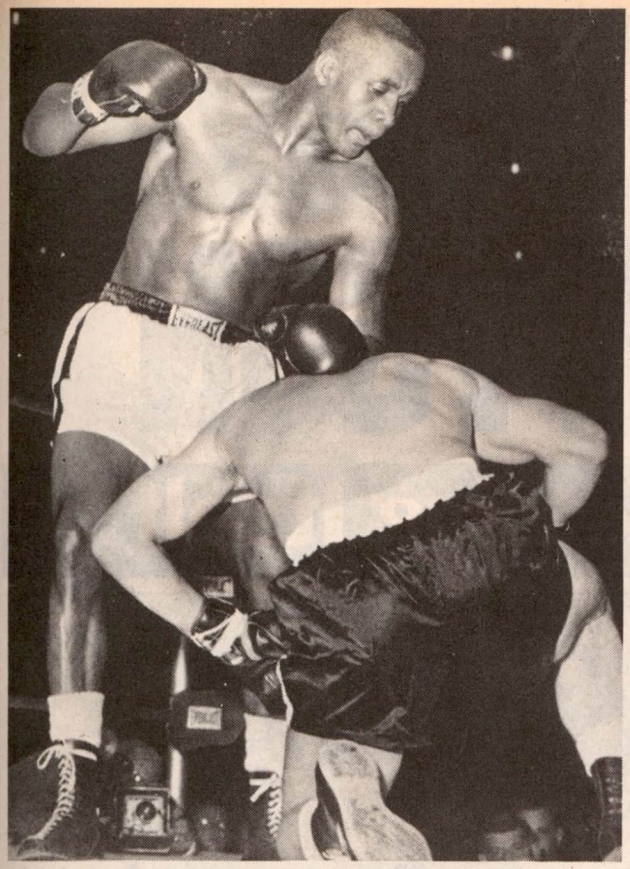


Though Holmes got rocked against Shavers and Snipes, he'd be awake for the entire fight. He learned his lesson in those fights. He'd just jab, jab, jab. I don't see Larry getting tagged the way he did against those other two.

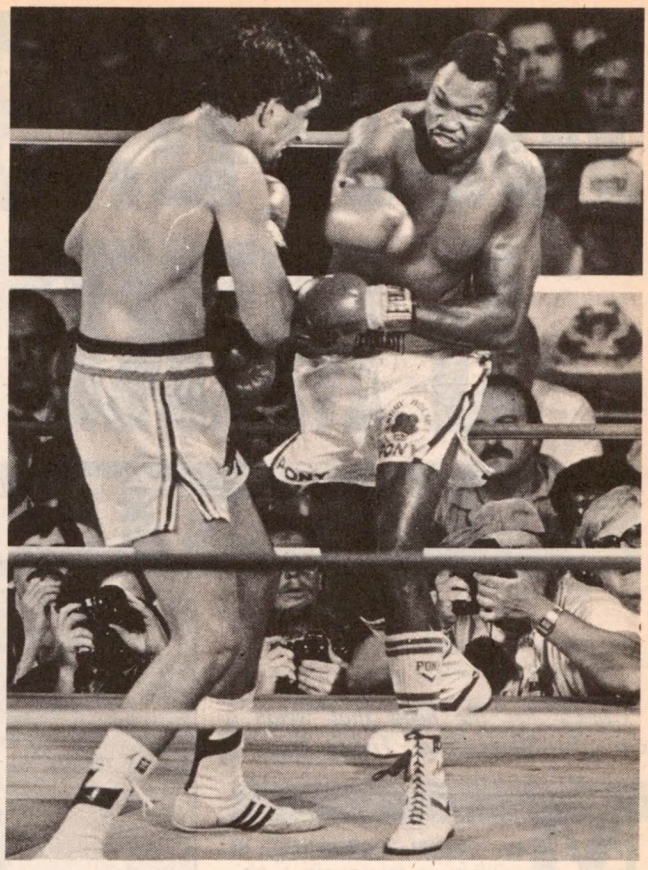
Even if Liston tried for an early knockout, Holmes would be ready. You couldn't intimidate Holmes. And nobody ever surprised him. And that goes back to his corner. Holmes always had a good game plan. He always listened to Richie Giachetti and Eddie Futch. They made sure he didn't get careless. When Holmes stuck to his game plan, he always won.

Holmes would move away from Liston's left, throw out his own jab, mix in combinations. He could throw that jab all night. Holmes would be constantly moving and outboxing Sonny. He'd be able to frustrate Liston. It would be just like his two fights with Earnie Shavers—minus the knockdown. I think the fight would go the distance, and that Holmes would outpoint Liston.

Gil Clancy, a former trainer, is the boxing analyst for CBS.



Sonny Liston probably peaked during his late-'50s climb to the top of the heavyweight ratings. In February 1959, 3½ years before he won the world title by kayoing Floyd Patterson, Liston stopped Mike DeJohn in six.

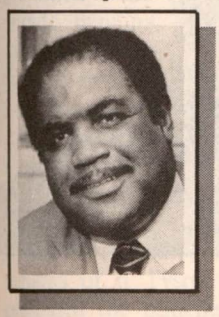


The title fight Larry Holmes *had* to win was his June 1982 showdown with top-rated contender Gerry Cooney. Holmes, sharp and prepared, boxed brilliantly and halted his foe in the 13th round in Las Vegas.

ERNIE TERRELL

I have no doubt about the outcome. Both guys were great fighters. Holmes had an excellent jab. But when compared to Liston's, I don't think it was as damaging. Holmes was an excellent boxer, but he'd be facing a very determined fighter. Remember that Liston was past his prime when he lost to Ali.

Ali had the right style to beat Liston. Holmes, on the other hand, didn't have the kind of foot speed and the snap on his punches that Ali did, and that's what Larry would need to keep Liston off.



Liston was a powerful puncher, but was very underrated as a boxer. When I look at the fighters that hurt Holmes: Shavers, Norton, Weaver . . . He was almost knocked out by Snipes. I just don't think Holmes would be a match for Liston.

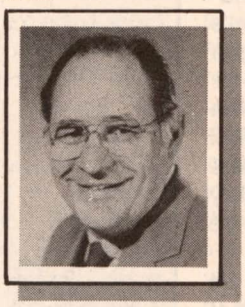
If Liston landed a punch like one of those guys did, it would be goodbye Holmes. Once Holmes was hurt, there'd be no way in the world he'd be able to come back from the punches that Sonny would have followed up with.

I'm not suggesting that Holmes was not a great fighter. I just don't think he could've beaten Liston. Liston would've knocked him out. When? I don't know. It all depends on Holmes. Whenever it would come, it would come. Liston was the kind of guy that *did not mess around!*

Ernie Terrell is a former WBA heavyweight champion. He is now a boxing promoter based in Chicago.

DR. FERDIE PACHECO

Holmes would not be intimidated because he was bigger than Sonny. Holmes would stay outside, pop his jab, waiting until Liston got tired and/or frustrated. Then Holmes would start bouncing those big right hands that he threw so well.



Liston would've treated Holmes with the contempt that he had for fighters that he didn't think were his equal. Liston had genuine power and a very powerful jab. He would try and get in a slugging match with Holmes. He would take three or four rounds of a head-whipping just to crunch a guy. He was very determined.

Sonny Liston in his prime—not the guy who fought Cassius Clay—would have caught up with Holmes. I'm talking about the guy who pulverized the division on his way to the title. Liston's fight with Cleveland Williams sticks in my mind, because Cleveland was a heavy puncher, and he did eveything humanly possible to knock Sonny out. And Liston walked right through his punches like King Kong and knocked him out with a savage body attack.

Larry was not easy to knock down, but he did go down. But when Liston knocked a guy down, if he was smart, he'd stay down, or he'd get a king-sized beating. Holmes was very gutsy, and he had tremendous heart. But the more gutsy he was, the easier he'd be for Liston to knock out.

The "Fight Doctor" is the boxing analyst for NBC. ■

JOHN L. SULLIVAN & MIKE TYSON

Is History Repeating Itself?

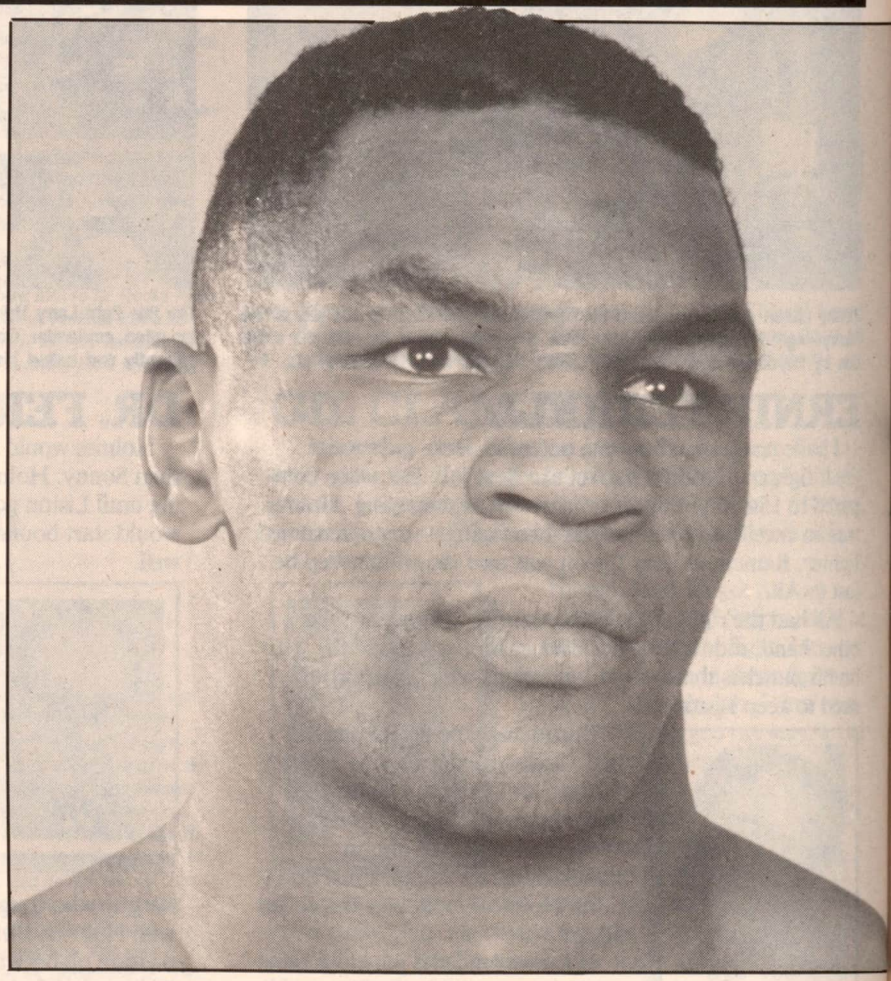
"Uneasy lies the head that wears a crown"—Shakespeare, Henry IV

By Todd Postol

Mike Tyson's endless reign as undefeated heavyweight champion ended four months ago. He may regain the crown, or perhaps he will never be the same fighter again, but one thing is certain: A champion with seemingly limitless potential, a man who was considered unbeatable for years to come, came crashing down in Tokyo. What went wrong? By now the immediate circumstances surrounding the Buster Douglas fight—Tyson's lack of head movement, his sluggish offense, his inexperienced corner, his association with Don King—have been analyzed to the point of tedium. Still something is missing: These explanations tell us *how* Tyson lost, but they do not tell us *why* he lost. For that we must turn to the past.

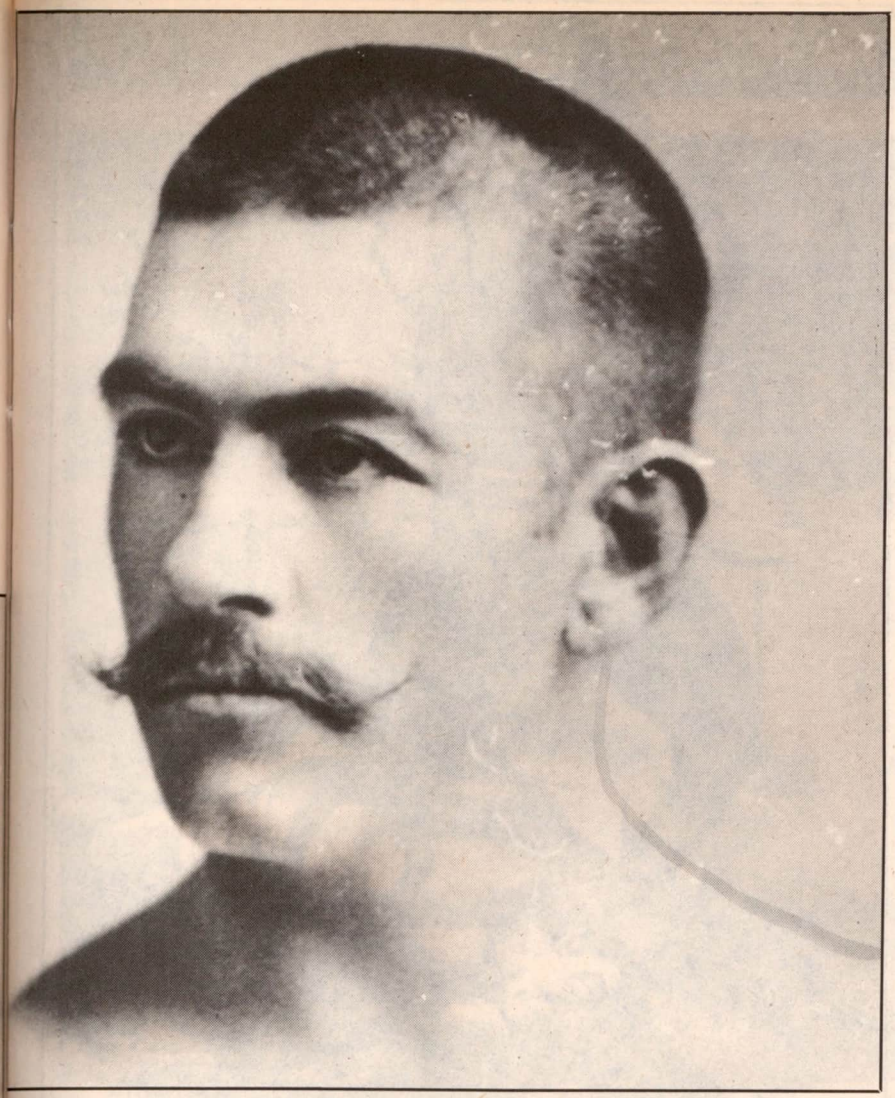
The origins of Tyson's loss are shrouded in the mists of boxing history. A century ago, John L. Sullivan encountered many of the same obstacles Tyson has faced, and he reacted to them in nearly identical ways. Looking at Sullivan's turbulent career offers surprising insights into the events leading up to Tyson's defeat, and provides clues as to where the former champion may be headed.

Sullivan, like Mike Tyson, was a pure, unadorned puncher. His fistic rise began spectacularly in 1878 at the age of 19. One evening Sullivan and his buddies attended a variety show where a professional fighter named Jack Scannel dared anyone in the house to spar with him. Sullivan, who had never had a formal boxing lesson, took off his coat, rolled up his sleeves, and walked to the stage. During their scrap, Scannel landed a blow to the back of the youth's head. This enraged Sullivan. He charged Scannel, driving him with his fists across a nearby piano. The legend of "The Boston Strong Boy" was born.



MIKE TYSON

Shortly after the Scannel affair, Sullivan turned pro, and his reputation as a fearsome puncher spread rapidly. After Mike Donovan went four rounds with Sullivan in 1880, the veteran fighter commented that his muscular adversary deployed his right hand "as a blacksmith would use a sledgehammer pounding a piece of iron into



JOHN L. SULLIVAN

shape." Donovan instantly recognized that, "I had just fought the coming champion of the prize-ring."

On February 7, 1882, Donovan's prediction came true. In a brutal 11-minute mauling, reminiscent of Tyson's annihilation of Trevor Berbick, Sullivan seized the heavyweight crown from Paddy Ryan. One of Sullivan's cornermen noted, "I never saw such work as Sullivan did. He went at Ryan as you would chop a log of wood, and he broke him all up from the start." Ryan, for his part, foreshadowed the remarks of a Tyson kayo loser who compared the punches he received to getting hit by a truck. When John L. struck him, Ryan declared, "I thought a telegraph pole had be shoved against me endways."

After winning the championship, Sullivan went on tour, where he proceeded to dismantle all comers, amateur and professional alike. From the opening bell, Sullivan would rush out and overwhelm his opponents with awesome power and unexpected speed. At 5'10½" and 195 pounds, Sullivan was a giant for his time. None of his foes had a chance of winning, and most were knocked out in one or two rounds. Sullivan's quickest victory came in an exhibition in Memphis, where he starched a local fighter with his first punch. It was over in two seconds. Another kayo casualty asserted that swapping punches with Sullivan was akin to "standing under a piledriver."

At peak form, the great John L. was clearly the best fighter of his era. But the champion had off-nights. On June 30, 1884, Sullivan was scheduled to meet Charlie Mitchell at Madison Square Garden. More than 5,000 spectators showed up, only to see their hero shamble up to ring dead drunk. The heavyweight champion was in no condition to fight. Sullivan told the crowd, which had waited almost three hours to see him, "Gentlemen, I am sick and not able to box," and then he left, to a chorus of catcalls and boos.

Sullivan's championship rule was marred by substandard ring performances and a reckless lifestyle that put him on a collision course with disaster. The champion liked to go on prolonged drinking binges. He also liked to eat, and between title defenses his weight ballooned to more than 230 pounds. In 1883, after weeks of unrelieved drunkenness, Sullivan's lungs hemorrhaged and the champion lay unconscious for 24 hours. He recovered, only to resume his old habits. Five years later, at age 30, Sullivan's drinking again took him to the brink of death. The champion lay confined to bed for days with a high fever. By the time his stomach and liver cells purged themselves of alcohol, Sullivan had lost nearly 80 pounds.

Sullivan quickly regained the weight, but he stubbornly refused to learn anything from his experiences. And when drunk or annoyed, he tended to lose all self-control.

After winning the title, the Strong Boy enjoyed widespread public respect. His tremendous athleticism, coupled with a fine native intelligence, made him a natural favorite of the nation's sporting press. But he negated much of his good will with his outrageous behavior. The same man who assisted needy families also beat up newsboys in the street just for fun. His frequent stormy outbursts ruined his marriage, resulting in an embarrassing lawsuit where Sullivan was accused of wife-beating. Besides being mean, he was also moody. The champion was quick to take offense, and he carried imagined disputes with his manager and aides to the point where he would not speak with them. Sullivan made fabulous sums of money, but he went through his earnings in profligate fashion. Only in the squared circle itself was John L. able to establish control of his life, and even there he could be frustratingly unpredictable.

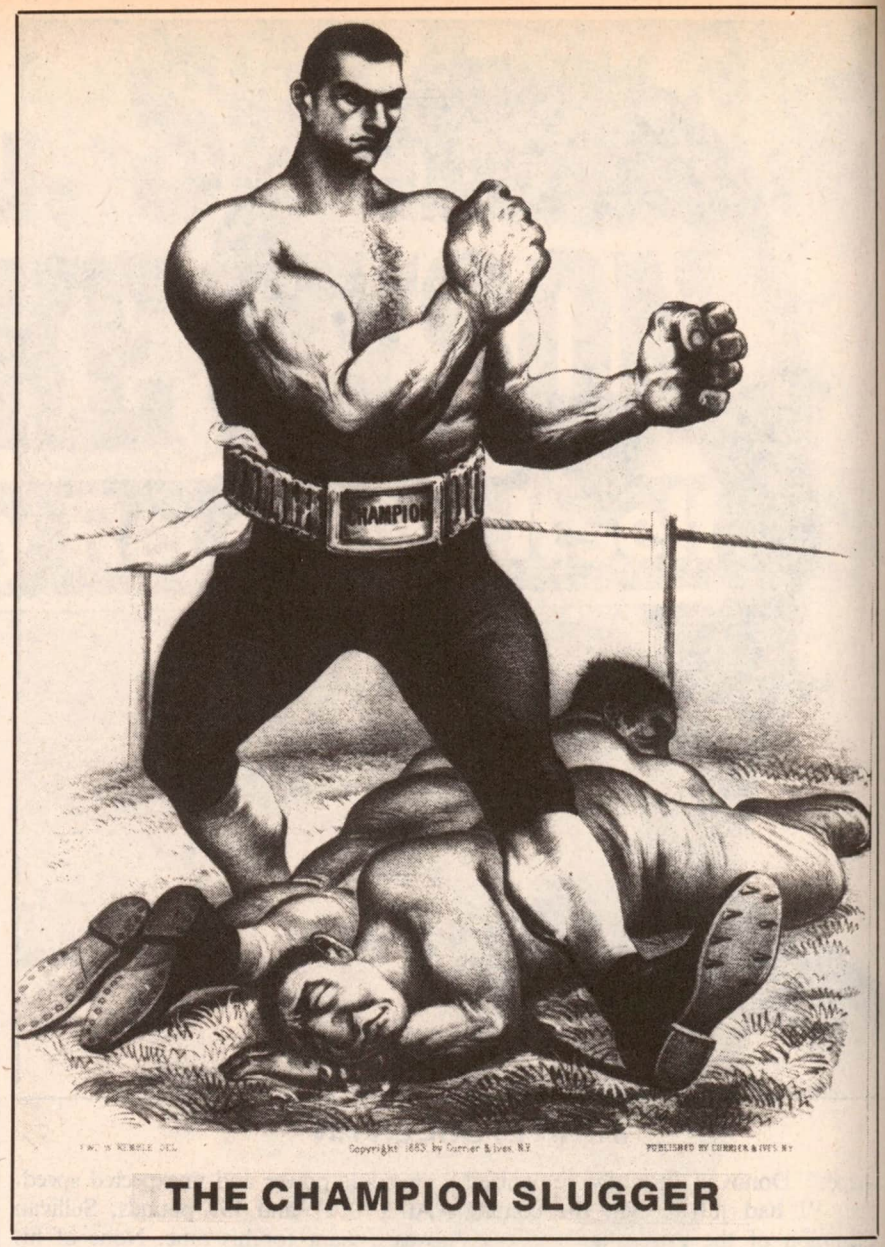
Anyone familiar with descriptions of Tyson's skill in the ring—and his troubles outside it—can see startling similarities with Sullivan. These similarities are rooted partly in the personalities of the two champions. Beyond this, another set of historical factors link them: Both embraced cultural norms that were at odds with dominant mainstream American attitudes. The Irish-American enclave of Roxbury, Massachusetts, where John L. came of age, was a rough, violent place where masculine prowess and ethnic pride made a

man's reputation. It had little in common with the proper neighborhoods typically associated with Victorian society. Infant mortality was high, sanitation was rudimentary, and sexual abuse and economic exploitation were accepted realities of everyday life. Working-class men, Michael T. Isenberg observed in his superb study of Sullivan, often took refuse in an alternative street culture where public drinking, visual displays of courage, and willingness to engage in physical combat were highly prized. When he boasted, "My name's John L. Sullivan, and I can lick any son-of-a-bitch alive," the champion wasn't just acting tough. He was being tough, in a way that his contemporaries admired.

The cardinal elements that distinguished Sullivan's youth—limited economic opportunity, ethnic and racial discrimination, street violence and exaggerated public expressions of masculinity—also characterized Tyson's formative years. Tyson's experiences in Brownsville had little to do with the mores of middle-class white America, and everything to do with being tough in the classic Sullivan mode. This is what gives Tyson's wish to be "tough like John L. Sullivan" credibility. It may also be what destroys him.

As heavyweight kings, both Sullivan and Tyson were confronted with a cruel paradox: The very skills that took them from the streets to the top of their sport undermined their ability to retain the heavyweight championship. Impulsiveness, bravado, and recklessness are, on the street, positive traits. But in a champion, these traits can be fatal. Keeping a crown requires planning, preparation, and, above all else, stability. Sullivan always lacked this, and Tyson has yet to acquire it. Like the Boston Strong Boy before him, Tyson has remained wedded to values that prevent him from effectively utilizing his full capacities as a boxer. Up to the night that he lost the title, Tyson was a model of instability; his 10th-round swoon to the canvas was simply the last and most dramatic instance of the champion careening out of control.

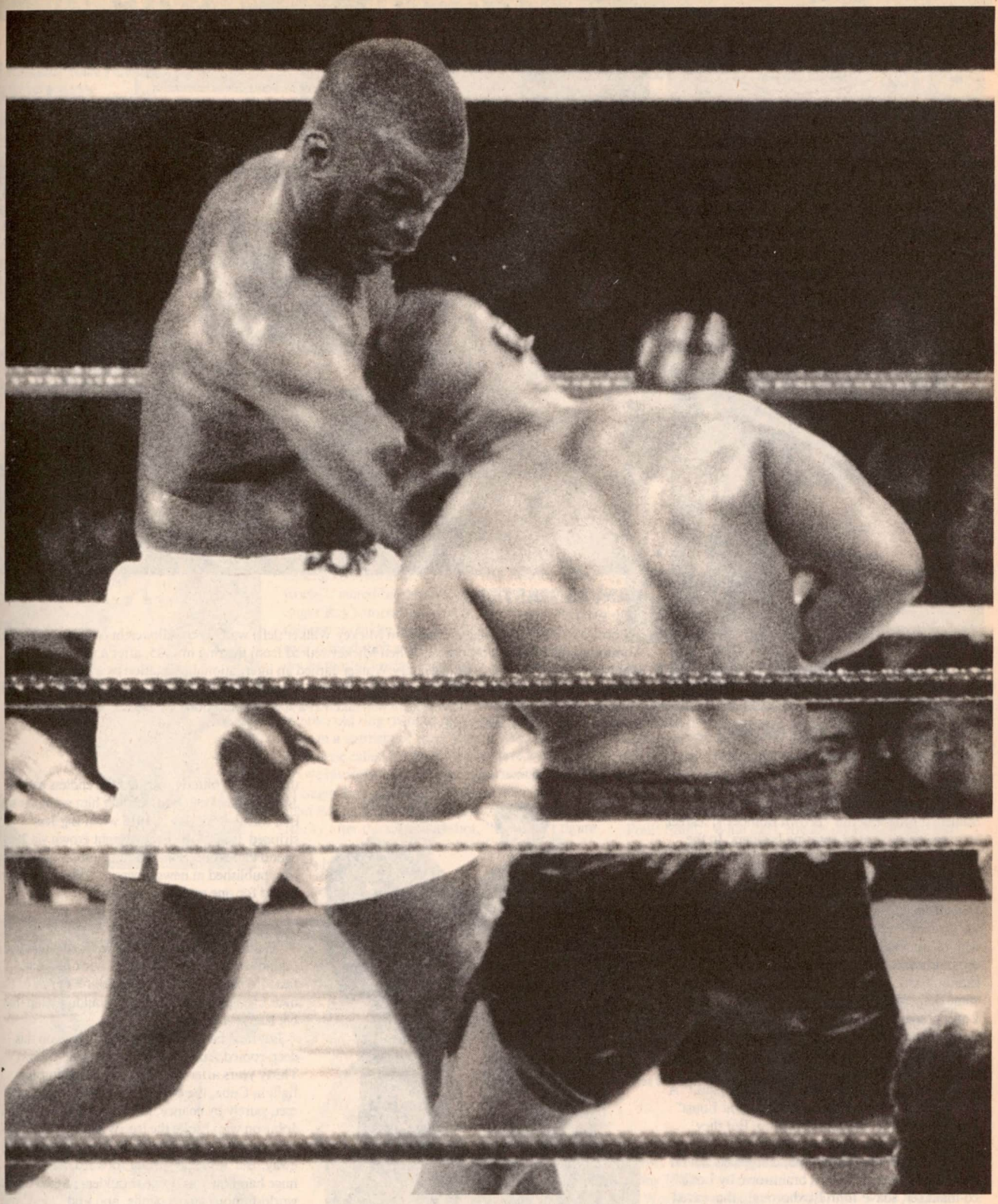
Sullivan's example suggests several things that may help us understand where Tyson is going as a person and as a fighter. First, it is unlikely that Tyson's power will leave him. He may lose fights, but he isn't going to lose his punch. Sullivan kept on knocking down walls to the end. Second, Tyson will remain close to the social and ethnic environment of his childhood. His identity as heavyweight champion was forged in the black ghettos of Brooklyn, just as Sullivan's emerged from the poor Irish quarters of Boston. More than any other fighter of the last 50 years, Tyson is a throwback to the champions of the past. Ali, Marciano, and Louis lacked genuine street culture credentials. But not Tyson.



An 1883 illustration of John L. Sullivan suggests how the heavyweight was perceived. Sullivan, like Mike Tyson 100 years later, punished his opponents with powerful and quick punches. And, like Tyson, Sullivan did not always adapt smoothly to life outside the ring. His violent outbursts were legendary.

Finally, Tyson's various indiscretions, bad as they are, do not look so sinister when viewed alongside Sullivan's exploits. The Strong Boy seldom trained for fights and was obese for much of his championship tenure. He embarked on long drunken escapades and showed no shame, except to confide with astonishing understanding, "I grew careless in eating and drinking." When he retired, he continued to hit the headlines by periodically making a fool of himself. Once, while riding on a train, John L. attacked a one-armed passenger who was bothering him, choking the man so hard that his fingerprints were embedded on the victim's throat. Compared to this, Tyson seems almost—but not quite—well-behaved.

For all his misadventures, John L. Sullivan was undeniably a great fighter. He fought hundreds of exhibitions and had 47 professional matches, losing just once—to James J. Corbett in his next-to-last contest, when he was approaching 34. He scored 29 pro knockouts, with 14 first-round stoppages. His insistence on protecting his hands contributed to the creation of the modern era of gloved boxing. His tours



Buster Douglas takes the heavyweight title from previosuly unbeaten Mike Tyson in Tokyo. Tyson, like the great John L. before him, was thought to be invincible. Will Tyson learn from the mistakes that shortened Sullivan's prime? A boxing historian, he would be wise to study the life and times of "The Boston Strong Boy."

around the country made him the first American fighter, indeed the first American athlete of any kind, to be a national sports idol. And to his credit, in his later years he admitted that he had been a chronic alcoholic, and he campaigned actively against alcohol abuse.

The Boston Strong Boy was great, but he could have been greater still. A century from now, will this be Mike Tyson's legacy?

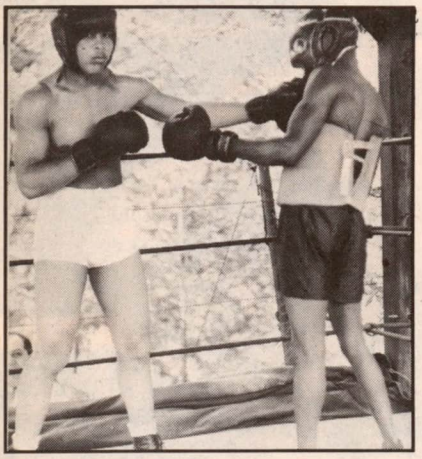
Mike Tyson lost his crown because he failed to master lessons that the street cannot teach. Over the coming months, the former heavyweight champion is going to find himself with a lot of free time. Perhaps he should use some of it to think more deeply about the career of one of his idols, John L. Sullivan. ■

Todd Postol is a Ph.D candidate in history at the University of Chicago.

The RING

Compiled By Stanley Weston

With files of more than three million black-and-white and color negatives, *The Ring* magazine photo collection is by far the largest in the world. Each issue, we'll pour through the files to bring you some of the most unique boxing photographs ever taken



"TO HELL WITH THE MONEY—WE DEMAND PROTECTION!"

(September 1935)

The major problem that plagued Joe Louis' trainers throughout the "Brown Bomber's" career was the recruitment of sparring partners. In the very early days of the Great Depression, candidates weighing more than 175 pounds, with a minimum of three years professional experience, were offered $5 per three-minute round (plus $5 for medical expenses—if necessary) for sparring with the murderous-punching Louis. But not even those desperate depression days generated enough cannon fodder for the Bomber. The situation became desperate in the hot summer of 1935, while Louis prepared for his big bout against former heavyweight king Max Baer. Joe's co-manager, Julian Black, had spread the word that sparring partners "are really needed for the next heavyweight champion, Joe Louis. Top dollar paid." A few brave and hungry souls showed up at Louis' Pompton Lakes, New Jersey, camp. But they were either too young or too old, too thin or too fat. Black's plea for human punching bags fell far short of the target. It was a brainstorm by Louis' co-manager, suave John Roxborough, that saved the day. "Give those people the kind of padded protection they give baseball catchers," reasoned the astute Roxborough. Why not indeed? A local saddlemaker was quickly commissioned to make a corset-like body protector, and the Everlast Sporting Goods Company was commissioned to make a special headgear that "will give the same protection to a man's entire head as those metal helmets gave to King Arthur's Knights in medieval days." This rare picture shows Louis sticking out a playful left jab to his heavily corseted (and quivering) $5-a-round sparring partner, whose name is lost in time.

CANVAS MASTERS

(July 1947)

Former world middleweight champion Mickey Walker (left) watches middleweight contender Georgie Abrams prepare to paint a portrait. When Mickey retired from the ring in 1935, after a memorable 16-year career and 148 fights, the legendary Walker earned an international reputation as a primitive artist. Abrams, inspired by Walker's artistic success, developed his natural art skills, while at the same time pursuing the 160-pound crown. This picture was taken at a special exhibition of Abrams' art work sponsored by Madison Square Garden.

FRIENDS AT LAST

(June 12, 1945)

After interviewing Jack Johnson and Jess Willard for a feature magazine article in 1923, famed sportswriter Grantland Rice commented, "These two titans of boxing lore will never accept a truce. They will, I regret to have to say, carry their hatred for each other to their respective graves."

Rice's observations mirrored the opinion of boxing historians, for it was common knowledge that Willard bitterly resented the endless barbs Johnson had been bombarding him with ever since that torrid April day in 1915 when Big Jess stripped Jack of the heavyweight crown via 26th-round knockout. Some sample quotes by Johnson, published in newspapers: "Willard got where he did for one reason—his size."

"Willard didn't know a jab from an uppercut."

"Sam Langford could give Willard a hundred pounds on the scales and still knock him out. In fact, I'd have to think hard to think of one of the men I fought in my time who couldn't whip that big Kansas farmboy."

But time had a soothing effect, even on this deep-rooted feud, as this picture clearly shows. Thirty years after their famous championship fight in Cuba, the two aging former champions met, purely by chance, in Los Angeles. It was Johnson who broke the ice. When they spotted each other in a hotel, Willard started to turn away. But Johnson sprung forward, placed his huge hand on Jess' huge shoulder, flashed that world-famous golden smile, and said, "Jess, you look in good enough shape to go 30 rounds."

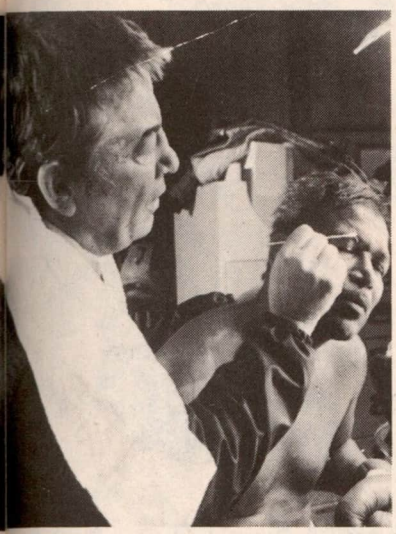
Willard was speechless. All he could do was manage a sheepish half-grin and warily extend his right hand, which Johnson shook as he would the hand of an old friend he hadn't seen in years. They wound up having dinner together at Hollywood's famous Brown Derby, without one word mentioned about their memorable fight, or all the cutting barbs spewed by Jack.

When the waiter brought the check, they both reached for it. Johnson's hand was first to land on the target. After 30 years, he had finally evened the score.

THE PRIZEFIGHTERS AND THE LADY

(September 1933)

When Metro-Goldwyn-Mayer signed heavyweight champion Primo Carnera and number-one contender Max Baer to appear in its movie *The Prizefighter And The Lady,* the studio forced boxing's top promoters to delay plans to stage a real Baer vs. Carnera title fight. The anxious world got a sampling of what a real Baer-Carnera bout would look like when the pair went through the motions for the cameras. This picture was taken on a Hollywood set just before the "fight" began. Left to right: Carnera, actress Myrna Loy (The Lady), and Baer. Oh, yes, the staged bout ended in a 10-round draw. But in the real Baer-Carnera fight, on June 14, 1934, at the Madison Square Garden Bowl in New York, Baer shattered the Carnera myth of invincibility by stopping Primo in 11 rounds and winning the heavyweight title.



WAX DON'T BLEED

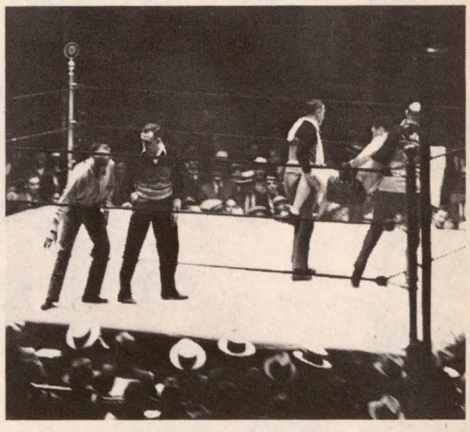
(January 1971)

When boxing fans reflect on Rocky Graziano and Sugar Ray Robinson, they instinctively visualize their classic world middleweight title brawl in Chicago on April 16, 1952. On that historic night, Rocky's incredible courage proved no match for Sugar Ray's unparalleled skill. So when fans saw this picture in the March 1971 issue of *The Ring,* they rubbed their eyes in disbelief. There's no doubt that's Graziano swabbing the Sugarman's eye. But what's this all about? The picture was taken in the Hollywood dressing room shared by the two old ring rivals as they prepared to play roles in a segment of the TV series *Mod Squad.* The scene called for Robinson to have a deep cut above his right eye, with Graziano acting the part of Sugar Ray's cut man. So who better qualified than Rocky to plant the wound on Ray? Said Rocky after the scene was shot, "I couldn't figure out a way to make that cut bleed. I guess wax don't bleed."

FOUL OF THE CENTURY

(June 12, 1930)

There have been fouls and there will always be fouls. But no foul in boxing history had a more dramatic effect on the sport than the foul that ended the Jack Sharkey-Max Schmeling bout at New York's Yankee Stadium. At stake was the world heavyweight championship that had been vacated by the retirement of undefeated champion Gene Tunney. During the fourth round of what had been a fairly even fight, Sharkey exploded with a body shot that appeared to strike below the belt. Schmeling let out an agonizing scream as he slumped to the canvas, clutching his groin. Frantic confusion erupted among the huge crowd when Schmeling's

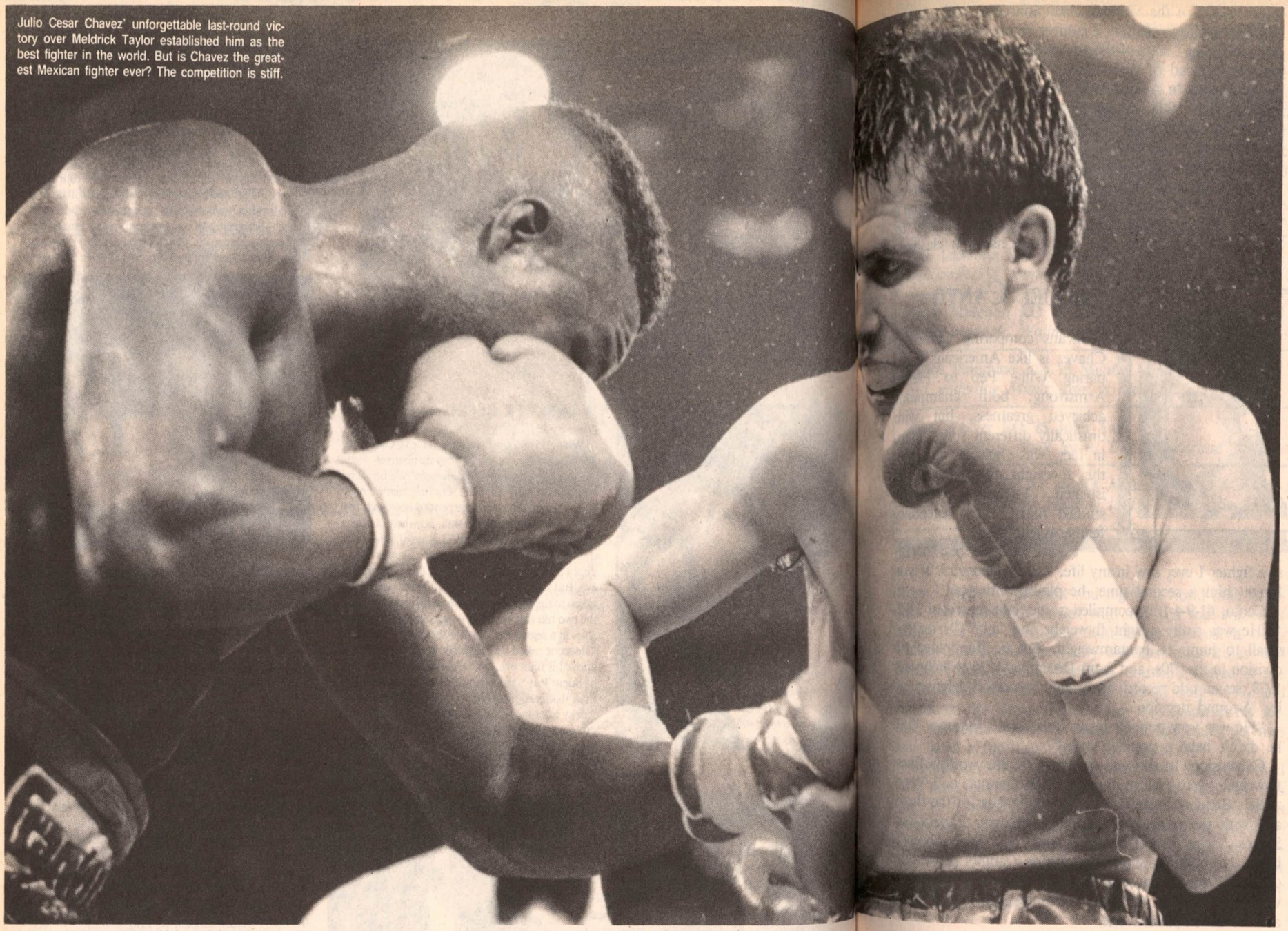


handlers leaped into the ring, picked up their stricken idol, and carried his limp body back to the corner. But the most confused of all was referee Jim Crowley, who appeared overwhelmed by the traumatic situation. Every eye in the Stadium focused on Crowley. And to make matters worse, Crowley became intimidated by Schmeling's flamboyant manager, Joe "Yussel" Jacobs, who had leaped into the ring, waved his finger at the referee's flushed red face, and screamed, "Foul! Foul! Foul!" What did Crowley do in this crisis, with the heavyweight crown hanging in the balance? He passed. He went to higher authority—the members of the New York State Athletic Commission, all of whom were comfortably seated at ringside. "What do you want me to do?" shrieked Crowley to his bosses. After a surprisingly fast huddle, the commissioners relayed their verdict: "Disqualify Sharkey. Max Schmeling is the new heavyweight champion of the world." This historic picture, taken before the official verdict was announced, shows Schmeling being carted off to his corner, as his manager, Jacobs (in ring center wearing the sweater) screams at Crowley and demands that he disqualify Sharkey. And so it was, the only time in history that the heavyweight crown was won on a foul.

MR. PRESIDENT AND MR. CHAMPION

(May 1952)

World heavyweight champion Jersey Joe Walcott presents President Harry Truman with a gold ticket to the champion's scheduled title bout with Ezzard Charles to be held in Philadelphia on June 5. Boxing fan Truman graciously accepted the gift and wished Jersey Joe good luck. After this picture was taken in the Oval Office at the White House, the President playfully poked his elbow into the champ's shoulder and asked, "Joe, how do you think you would have done against Dempsey?" Walcott grinned and replied, "Mr. President, I'm glad Dempsey isn't around anymore so we can find out." Truman was unable to use his gold ticket and see Jersey Joe outpoint Charles. The President was scheduled for a summit conference in Europe.



Julio Cesar Chavez' unforgettable last-round victory over Meldrick Taylor established him as the best fighter in the world. But is Chavez the greatest Mexican fighter ever? The competition is stiff.

His Greatness Confirmed...

IS CHAVEZ THE BEST MEXICAN FIGHTER EVER?

By Steve Farhood

Greatness is a concept that's difficult to define. Whether you're measuring a diva at *La Scala,* a general in combat, or a champion in the ring, it's easier to recognize greatness than to describe it.

Hard-core boxing fans, armchair observers, and those who wouldn't know Lou Duva from Lou Reed watched the ending of the Julio Cesar Chavez-Meldrick Taylor fight and saw the same thing.

You know it when you see it.

Even those who had previously listed Chavez as boxing's most overrated fighter willingly acknowledged the magnitude of his triumph. And the certainty of his greatness.

"What the great fighters have in common," said manager/trainer Emanuel Steward, "is a certain amount of mental alertness, mental stamina. They maintain their concentration, and when they see an opportunity, they become alert and take full advantage. Chavez not only came from behind, but never lost stride. He showed all of the attributes of greatness."

Placing Chavez' incredible 12th-round TKO victory in perspective, we've posed a question—and presented an answer. Is Chavez the greatest Mexican fighter of all time?

In analyzing Mexican fighters, it is important to separate the best from the most popular. There have been at least half-a-dozen Mexican champions who met any and all standards of greatness. Only two of them, however, Ruben Olivares and Salvador Sanchez, rate among the most loved Mexican fighters of all time.

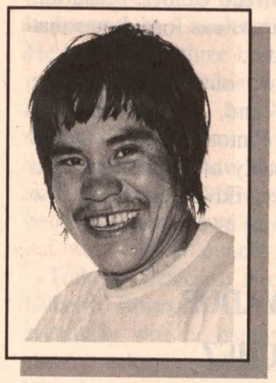
"People don't necessarily identify with the most technical boxers, but with personalities, and with style of fighting," said Fernando Paramo, a sports editor for the Los Angeles-based *La Opinion,* the largest-selling Spanish daily newspaper in the United States. "Ruben Olivares, Jose 'Toluco' Lopez, they would get drunk with the people three days before a fight."

Chavez got drunk after beating Taylor, but he did so with Steve Wynn, the owner of The Mirage, and not a handful of idolatrous countrymen. Instead of shooting tequila and sucking on lemons, he was sipping champagne and savoring caviar.

According to Paramo, Olivares, who reigned as bantamweight and featherweight titlist, was the most popular Mexican fighter ever. Next, in order, come former welterweight champion Pipino Cuevas, former featherweight king Sanchez, Lopez, and another bantamweight, Raul "Raton" Macias, who once drew a crowd of 60,000 in Mexico City.

"Chavez is very, very popular, but not the most loved," Paramo added. "I would say his biggest triumph as an idol was that about 8,000 people drove 280 miles [from Los Angeles] to see him in Las Vegas against Taylor. Chavez has never sold out the [Great Western] Forum the way Olivares did, but Olivares' fights weren't televised, and Chavez has never been blacked out in L.A."

Here's a brief look the great Mexican champions, and how they compare with Chavez. (Note: Welterweight legend Jose Napoles, who fought more than half his bouts in Mexico and established a frenetic following, is not included because he was born in Cuba.)



RUBEN OLIVARES

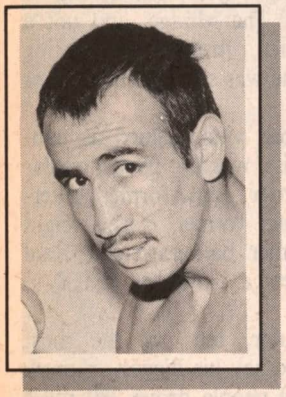
"The best," says Rafael Mendoza, a former boxing writer who now represents Mexican fighters Daniel Zaragoza, Humberto Gonzalez, and Gilberto Roman. "And he would've been better and greater for a longer time if he had lived a different lifestyle."

"Rockabye Ruben," who mastered the Mexican hook to the liver, is considered by many to be the best bantamweight of all time. His numbers don't compare favorably to Chavez'—Olivares was 87-12-3 (77), and only 8-5 in title fights, while Chavez is an amazing 17-0 in championship bouts. But at his peak, the gap-toothed legend seemed invincible. He was unbeaten in his first 60 fights, and, in 1969, he dethroned 118-pound champion Lionel Rose, who was thought to be among boxing's best fighters. Olivares *owned* West Coast phenom Bobby Chacon, and in the most critical bout of his career, his rubbermatch with countryman Chucho Castillo, he won via convincing decision.

Chavez has won three different titles, but Olivares, who reigned twice as bantamweight king and twice as featherweight king, had less options; there was no junior featherweight division when he fought.

Conclusion: Paramo rates Chavez ahead of Olivares. Mendoza rates Olivares ahead of Chavez. We'll side with

Paramo and Chavez—by the slimmest of margins. Our reason? November 23, 1974. On that night at the Inglewood Forum, Olivares, past his prime but ahead on two of the three cards, was kayoed in the 13th round by featherweight challenger Alexis Arguello. Sounds a bit like Chavez-Taylor, doesn't it?

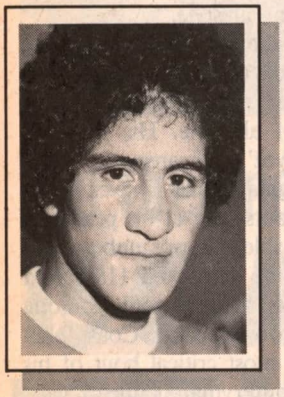


Carlos Zarate

Described by Mendoza as "a serious killer," and by Paramo as "technically the best fighter I ever saw," Zarate wasn't charismatic and, as a result, wasn't idolized. But at his peak, he might have been the most dominant Mexican champion in history. Like Olivares, Zarate's early-career numbers can match Chavez'. He started with 45 straight wins and an incredible 44 kayos. He successfully defended the WBC bantamweight title nine times, but his greatest triumph, an April 1977 fourth-round kayo of unbeaten (29-0 with 29 kayos) WBA champion Alfonso Zamora, wasn't sanctioned as a title fight. When Zarate was finally dethroned, it was by stablemate Lupe Pintor, who benefited from one of the most disputed decisions of the '70s.

Still, we have to rate Chavez ahead of Zarate for one reason: Each time he's risen in weight, Chavez has succeeded. Zarate tried only one jump—we're ignoring his late-'80s comeback—and was destroyed in five rounds by reigning 122-pound champion Wilfredo Gomez. Mendoza, however, maintains that a sick Zarate was forced into that fight by manager Cuyo Hernandez.

Conclusion: Zarate defeated two outstanding fighters, Rodolfo Martinez and Zamora, and, the circumstances aside, lost to two, Gomez and Pintor. Chavez remains unbeaten, and tops Zarate in quality of opposition, with victories over Roger Mayweather, Edwin Rosario, Jose Luis Ramirez, and Taylor. Chavez in a close call.



Salvador Sanchez

Sanchez established himself as a Mexican hero before establishing himself as a great fighter. By winning the featherweight title from American Danny Lopez in 1980 and successfully defending it against Puerto Rican Wilfredo Gomez in 1981, Sanchez defeated a pair of fighters who had built their reputations with key victories over big-name Mexicans. (Lopez had beaten, among others, Chucho Castillo and Olivares; Gomez had destroyed the previously undefeated Zarate.)

Unlike the stereotypical Mexican pressure fighter, Sanchez boxed from a distance and counterpunched with stunning accuracy. But as he proved in his demanding defenses against Gomez and Azumah Nelson, he was as tough as any of the Mexican champions who had preceded him. Sanchez was also a pioneer whose training methods—including state-of-the-art cardiovascular conditioning—were ahead of their time.

Conclusion: In August 1982, Sanchez, 23, was killed in a car accident. Still, his numbers are impressive. He was 10-0 in title fights, making nine successful defenses during his 29-month reign, and 44-1-1 (32) overall. Two factors prevent us from rating him above Chavez. First, his prime was tragically short. And second, it can be argued that he wasn't even the best fighter in his division. Panama's Eusebio Pedroza's 126-pound title reign ran parallel to Sanchez'. Unfortunately, the co-champions never clashed.

Miguel Canto

Mexicans comparing Canto to Chavez is like Americans comparing Willie Pep to Henry Armstrong; both champions achieved greatness, but with drastically different styles. Pep, in fact, was Canto's idol, and the flyweight titlist from the isolated Yucatan Peninsula studied films of the legendary featherweight king.

"Canto was the best defensive fighter I ever saw in my life," said Mendoza. "If you fought him a second time, he played with you."

Canto, 61-9-4 (15), compiled a title-fight record of 15-2-1. He was really a light flyweight and, at 5'1", far too small to jump to bantamweight. But he dominated his division in the '70s, and from December 1975 to February 1979, set an odd record: 12 straight successful defenses, all by 15-round decision.

"He was very popular in his area," said Paramo, "but he didn't have a popular style."

Conclusion: In the mid- to late-'70s, the world's finest flyweights were Canto, Japan's Shoji Oguma, and Venezuela's Betulio Gonzalez. Canto was the best of the three, and with the possible exceptions of Hilario Zapata and Santos Laciar, it's conceivable that there hasn't been a better 112-pounder since. But during Canto's prime, the quality of the division paled in comparison to the bantamweights and others. Chavez is a more versatile fighter, and a more accomplished one.

Vicente Saldivar

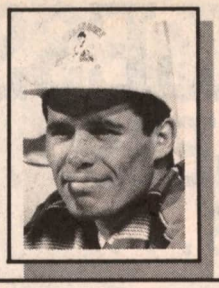
The darkhorse, but his accomplishments place him in this company.

"He didn't have the finesse of a Sanchez, and he wasn't as classy," Mendoza said of the southpaw featherweight.

"Great for a short time, but his reign was so short, and he wasn't spectacular; he based all his fighting on strength and conditioning," added Paramo.

Sugar Ray Leonard wasn't the first fighter to return

LAST-ROUND KAYOS: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



Based on the pace of the fight, the quality of the fighters, and the timing of his stoppage victory, Julio Cesar Chavez' TKO over Meldrick Taylor rates as the most dramatic finish in title-fight history. To the best of our knowledge, there have been only five other title fights in which the fighter behind or even on points rallied to score a last-round knockout.

RESULT	DATE	SITE	SCORING AT TIME OF STOPPAGE	SECONDS LEFT
Jake LaMotta KO 15 Laurent Dauthuille	**9-13-50**	**Detroit**	**72-68, 74-66, 71-69**	**13**
Dauthuille: "I wanted to box safely, but [my corner] said, 'Punch, punch, punch.' So I did."				
Oscar Albarado KO 15 Koichi Wajima	**6-4-74**	**Tokyo**	**67-65, 67-65, 66-67**	**63**
In the rematch, Wajima regained the title via easy 15-round decision				
Carlos Palomino KO 15 Mando Muniz	**1-22-77**	**Los Angeles**	**133-132 (M), 133-133, 135-133 (P)**	**36**
10-1 underdog Muniz loses in third of four title tries				
Mike Weaver KO 15 John Tate	**3-31-80**	**Knoxville**	**136-133, 137-134, 138-133**	**45**
Short, powerful hook leaves Tate unconscious for several minutes				
Jeff Harding KO 12 Dennis Andries	**6-24-89**	**Atlantic City**	**107-105, 104-103, 106-103**	**97**
Unknown substitute Harding took fight on five weeks notice				

from a lengthy retirement and regain a world title. Saldivar, who established himself with mid-'60s with wins over classy foes like defending titlist Sugar Ramos, a rising Ismael Laguna, the previously unbeaten Raul Rojas, and Welsh legend Howard Winstone, suddenly retired at age 24 in October 1967. He resurfaced in July 1969, and recaptured the crown from Johnny Famechon in his second comeback bout. He made eight successful defenses and faced a top-shelf quality of opposition.

Conclusion: We can only wonder what Saldivar would have done had he not retired while at his best. He was only 5'3", and it's doubtful he could have jumped up in weight and won the junior lightweight or lightweight titles. The southpaw was underrated—as a champion, he benefited from fewer soft defenses than Canto or Zarate. But with only 41 total bouts and an abbreviated prime, he can't match Chavez.

THE OTHERS

Welterweight **Pipino Cuevas** was perhaps the hardest hitter of all the Mexican champions, and his popularity, especially in Los Angeles, was matched only by Olivares. But he never faced co-champion Carlos Palomino (who was Mexican-born), and in his biggest fight, he was humbled by Thomas Hearns . . . Bantamweight **Lupe Pintor** dethroned Zarate, made eight successful defenses, and won a title at junior featherweight. His thrilling loss to Wilfredo Gomez cost him a place with the best; the rest of his competition just wasn't good enough . . . Featherweight **Chalky Wright**, who rarely fought in Mexico, lost 39 times, including four bouts to Willie Pep . . . **Raton Macias**, the handsome, church-going idol, was one of the first masters of the Mexican hook to the liver. He engaged, however, in only four world title bouts . . . Bantamweight **Alfonso Zamora** was powerful enough to have knocked out Eusebio Pedroza, but he failed miserably against Zarate and was one-dimensional . . . It was said that when Olivares was the best 118-pounder in the world, bantamweight **Chucho Castillo** was the best in Mexico. He lost two of three bouts to Olivares, however, and was particularly susceptible to stoppage defeats before he won the world title . . . In 1934, **Baby Arizmendi** became the second Mexican-born world champion (junior welterweight Battling Shaw was the first) when he claimed a share of the featherweight title after outpointing Mike Belloise. He won two of five fights vs. Henry Armstrong, but was void of punching power.

Today's Mexicans: Recently dethroned 115-pound king **Gilberto Roman** is a superb technician, but unless he eventually wins a bantamweight title, he'll never come close to achieving greatness . . . Featherweight **Jorge Paez** has already made seven successful defenses, but is still considered the third-best fighter in his division, behind Antonio Esparragoza and Jeff Fenech . . . The faded **Jose Luis Ramirez**, a recent title-fight loser at 140 pounds to Juan Coggi, twice won the lightweight crown, but losses to Ray Mancini, Edwin Rosario, Hector Camacho, and Chavez hurt his standing . . . **Daniel Zaragoza** has won titles at bantamweight and junior featherweight. He lacks victories over big-name foes . . . Bantamweight **Raul Perez** and light flyweight **Humberto Gonzalez** are young and have limitless futures. Chavez aside, they have better chances at greatness than any of the other active Mexicans.

Summary: Chavez is the one. The combination of his overall record (68-0), title-fight record (17-0), accomplishments (world titles in three different divisions), and quality of opposition makes him the best Mexican of all time.

By how much? About two seconds. ■

NUNN THE LESS . . . AND LESS . . . AND LESS . . .

Black-and-white Photos By Wayne Kodey

By Jack Welsh

Admittedly, Michael Nunn is not a gambler. If he deems a cautious approach the proper approach to victory, he'll take it. The fans can boo all they want; it doesn't matter, he says. That philosophy is just fine when a hotel like The Mirage, in its desperation to establish its name in the fight game, is willing to pay him more than a million dollars per fight. But when you get fired by a promoter after a win, and get booed by the fans, and then the fans stop paying to see you . . .

Michael Nunn has some thinking to do.

He has to think about his problems with management. He has to think about the level of his competition. And, most of all, he has to think about his deteriorating image.

Nunn's 12-round majority decision over welterweight champion Marlon Starling at Las Vegas' Mirage arrived two weeks after April Fools' Day, but the 3,896 spectators—only 1,984 tickets were sold; the rest were giveaways—might have felt that the practical jokers had lingered in the hotel's grand ballroom. (Thought you were gonna see a fight? *April Fool's!)*

After 12 uneventful rounds, Starling had done enough to convince one judge, Gary Merritt, to score a draw at 114-114. Judges Glen Hamada and Art Lurie scored for the defending champion, 118-110, and 117-111, respectively. *The Ring's* tally was 116-112 for Nunn.

Nunn, normally pleasant and outgoing, seemed strained and drawn 48 hours before the showdown. His five-mile smile was contrived.

"Fights are won in the ring," he said. "My mind is solely on Marlon Starling. Marlon's a great welterweight champion, but I don't care who you are, you don't gain 13 pounds and become Superman. I've got my job to do, and I'll take him out. I might have had management problems, but I don't have fight problems. Once the bell rings, those problems won't mean anything."

Three weeks before the fight, Nunn broke from the Goossen training camp and began working with California's relatively inexperienced Cassius Green. (Nunn's contract with manager Dan Goossen expires on November 25.) But only a day before meeting Starling, Nunn at least temporarily reconciled with trainer Joe Goossen and asked him to be his corner.

The familiar face, however, didn't help Nunn keep his promise to kayo the smaller challenger. Starling generated little offense. He oft-times had to lunge to reach his target, and landing off-balance minimized the effect of his punches in bunches. Still, Nunn could never unload the arsenal needed to knock Starling out, down, or ever seriously hurt him.

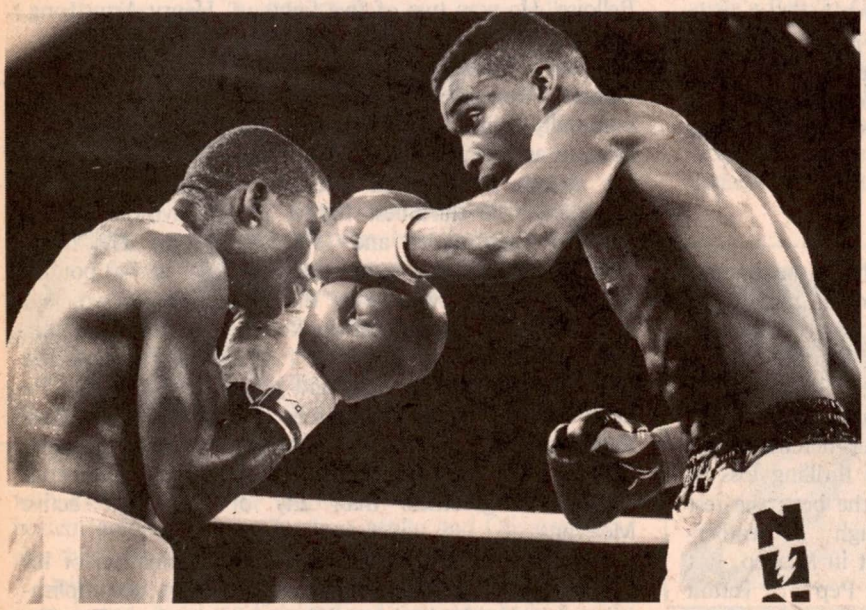
Despite having scored 23 kayos, Nunn, 35-0, seemed skeptical of his own talent. In losing the opening round, he pawed with his right, jabbed out of range, or ineffectively bopped Starling on the top of the head.

Twisting and turning, defensive master Starling, 45-6-1 (27), created a leathered catcher's mask with his gloves. Nunn eventually wearied as a headhunter and wisely moved his aim to the body with hooks. It was the strategy that enabled the champion to secure the decision.

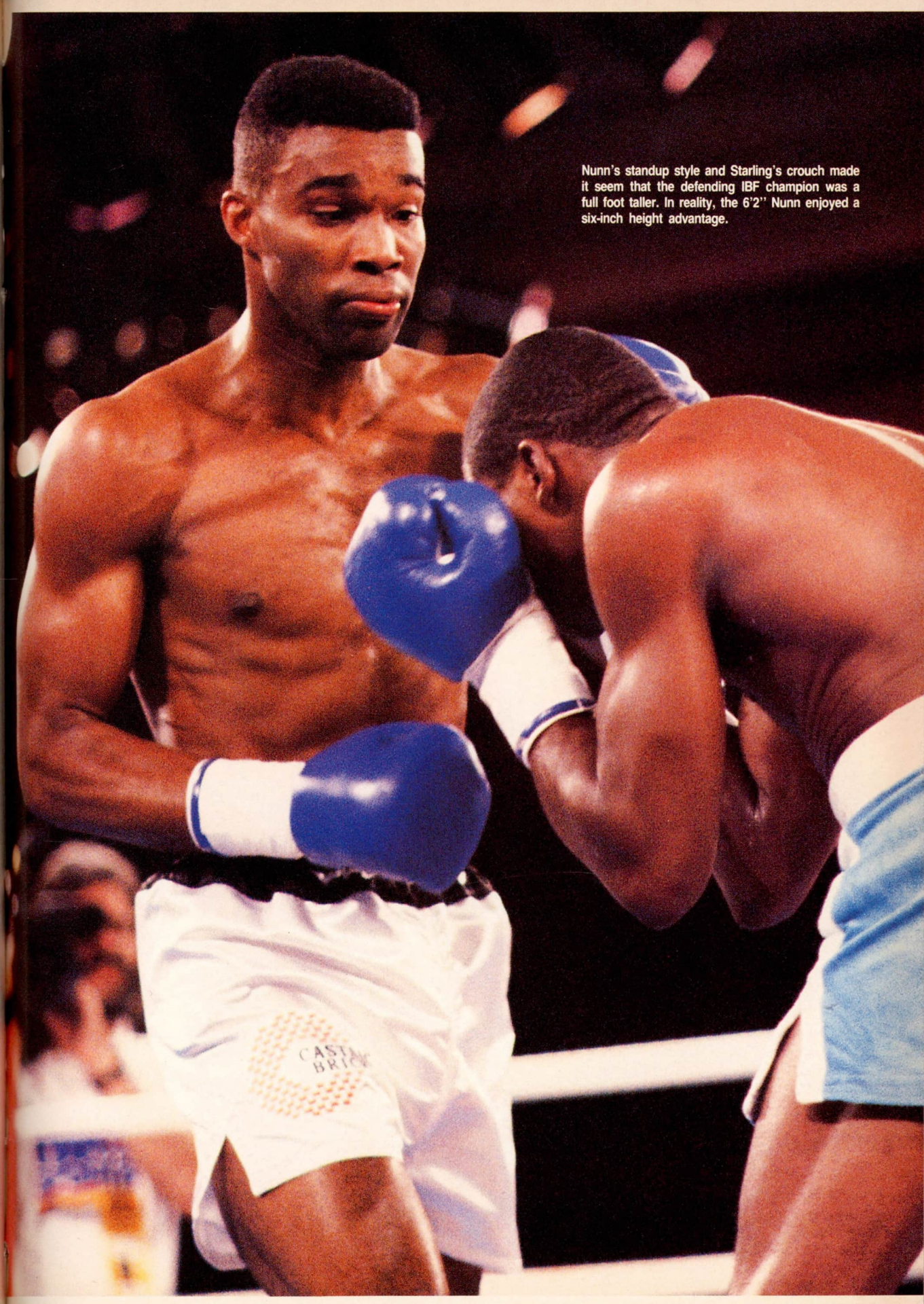
Starling started taunting Nunn as early as the second round and occasionally leaped in with a jolting right. The play went both ways: When Nunn scored with a left in the third, the "Magic Man" playfully swayed as though he might go down.

The most heated exchanges arrived in the fourth and 10th rounds, drawing sustained roars from the crowd. But the significant punches were rare, and ringsiders started delivering catcalls in the ninth round, with little letup through the final bell. Nunn didn't

(Continued on page 70)



Faced with Marlon Starling's magnificent peek-a-boo defense, middleweight champion Michael Nunn was unable to effectively score. A sporadic body attack enabled him to outpoint his smaller foe.



Nunn's standup style and Starling's crouch made it seem that the defending IBF champion was a full foot taller. In reality, the 6'2" Nunn enjoyed a six-inch height advantage.

50 YEARS AGO

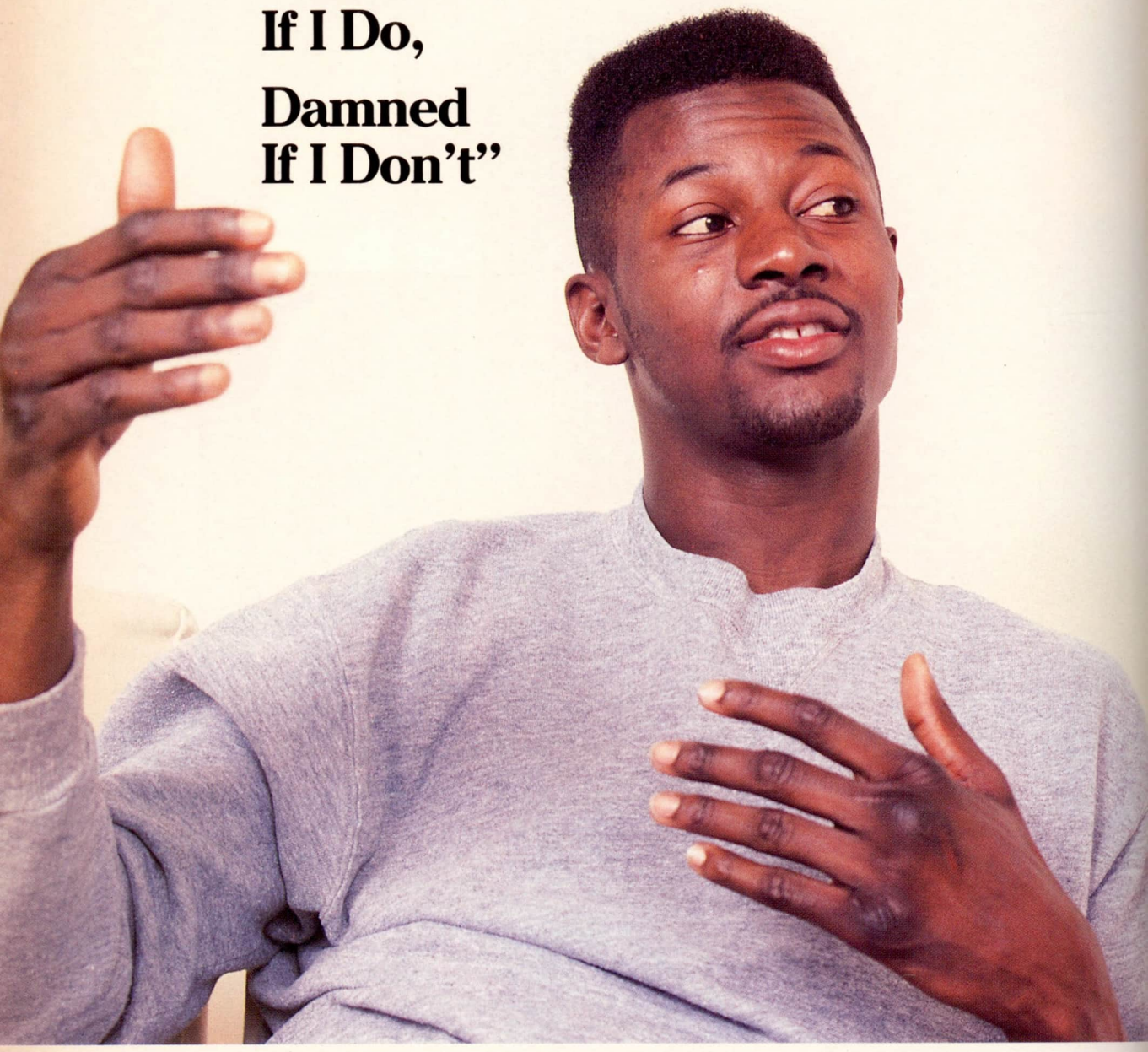
JOE LOUIS VS. ARTURO GODOY

June 20, 1940

In February 1940, heavyweight champion Joe Louis struggled against Arturo Godoy, an unproven challenger from Chile. Louis won a split 15-round decision in what he later called "the worst fight of my life." In the June rematch at Yankee Stadium, however, a well-prepared Louis punished Godoy, opened cuts under and over his left eye, and floored him en route to a magnificent eighth-round stoppage. It was Louis' 11th title defense.

MARK BRELAND

"Damned If I Do, Damned If I Don't"



By Robert Cassidy

Seated on a couch in his Manhattan apartment, Mark Breland flashes a boyish smile that takes you back to a time in the fighter's life when seemingly the only thing more golden than his 1984 Olympic souvenir was his future as a professional welterweight. Six years has changed Mark Breland, though. He is older and wiser now. The boxing prodigy of the early-'80s has grown up. He stretches his long, sleek body across the cushions. But comfort hasn't come that easily.

Breland has taken his share of beatings in his career. But almost all of them have been issued by the media and the fans. No opponent has ever gotten to Breland the way his critics have.

For Breland to finally achieve peace of mind meant unleashing a previously dormant inner rage. When he regained

the WBA welterweight title by stopping Seung Soon Lee early last year, the welterweight showed a ferocity that had been resting somewhere deep within his placid personality.

"When I came out for that fight, I was so psyched that I almost cried," said the 27-year-old Breland. "I really started concentrating on what I had to do. I realized that I had to come back and just take these guys out."

Breland's demolition of Lee triggered his current seven-fight win streak, during which he's scored seven knockouts, all within five rounds. The talent was always there. Breland's main obstacle had been his mind. His focus hadn't always been on winning, and his love for boxing had seemingly diminished from the days when he was an amateur superstar.

"I wasn't fighting for myself anymore," said Breland. "My whole attitude toward boxing went flat. I wasn't ready mentally. But I realized that's not the way to go. I have more peace with myself now."

Peace in a fighter's life may seem paradoxical. But to look at Breland, and to hear him speak, suggests that he is a boxing contradiction. When he first earned recognition as an amateur, those in his Brooklyn neighborhood thought there had to be another Mark Breland walking around; the Mark Breland everybody knew wasn't capable of fighting with anyone. And not only didn't Breland act like a fighter, he didn't look like one. It was easier to imagine his 6'2", 147-pound frame sailing through the air before unleashing a power dunk.

"I hear a lot that I'm too nice of a guy to fight. What's a fighter supposed to be like?" he asks.

It's a rhetorical question, of course. But everyone can tell you what *Mark Breland* was supposed to be like. He was the next Sugar Ray Robinson, the next Sugar Ray Leonard. And when he didn't rise to that level, he was quickly dismissed as a disappointment.

"Mark has always fought under a lot of pressure, and I thought he dealt with it as good as anyone could have expected," said Joey Fariello, Breland's trainer.

But Breland admits that at times he let the pressure get to him.

"I'm a very sensitive person," he said. "And it used to eat me up. I couldn't sleep. I couldn't eat. But now it doesn't bother me."

The trouble for Breland began when "the fire went out" sometime before his first fight with Marlon Starling. Having won five New York Golden Glove titles, an Olympic gold medal, and a world title, Breland didn't have any tangible goals before him. So when he fought Starling in 1987, and lost on a sudden 11th-round knockout, it was a brand new experience.

"In order for any human being to appreciate success, he has to experience failure," said Fariello. "Losing was a part of Mark's life that he never prepared himself for. But that one point in his life has made him a much better person, and subsequently he matured as a fighter."

Also important to Fariello is that Breland is now displaying the willingness and desire that are trademarks in all great fighters. Breland is hungry again. The fire is back.

But like an annoying jab that slips through his defense, Breland still must contend with people reminding him that he was the can't-miss prospect who missed. No matter where Breland is, or whom he is with, there are those who attempt to extinguish the flames.

Breland can often be found in Manhattan with his friend Charles Oakley, a forward on the New York Knicks. When the celebrities are spotted at a restaurant or night club, the inquiries start with the Knicks' playoff chances, then shift to why Breland hasn't fought Starling again.

"I still hear it today," he said. "On the streets, you get people who are like Alex Wallaus and Larry Merchants."

Starling, who pulled out of a third fight with Breland in the spring of 1989, is in the back of the fighter's mind. For Breland, the future is a lot clearer than the past. After quenching his desire to prove he's the world's best welterweight, he'll attempt to fulfill the prophecies of those who labeled him an eventual middleweight champion. His plans for the '90s: a brief stop at 154 pounds, and then, "somewhere along the line," a title fight against middleweight king Michael Nunn.

But the line on which Breland travels is rarely without a curve. After he knocked out former world champion Lloyd Honeyghan in March, his stunning victory was met with sharp criticism. (What else did you expect?) For any other welterweight, a convincing win over Honeyghan would have been a respectable accomplishment. But this isn't just any welterweight.

"I came home after the Honeyghan fight and one of my friends said, 'Hey Mark, that was great fight, but the guy looked shot,' " said Breland. "If I go and knock a guy out, he's shot. I don't care who it is. If I fought Mike Tyson and knocked him out, then Mike Tyson had the flu. I'm damned if I do and damned if I don't."

But Breland will be damned if he listens to the voices on the streets and reads the headlines in the sports pages. His critics cry out for him to beat a legitimate contender. And until he beats an opponent that the public deems worthy, he will not receive recognition in their eyes. According to Breland, he is now concerned with impressing only one person—himself.

"I fight for me now," he said. "Because when the bell rings, it's only me in the ring. And as long as I win, that's what counts." ■

WBA welterweight champion Mark Breland has his hand raised by referee Julio C. Alvarado after annihilating former champion Lloyd Honeyghan in March (trainer Joey Fariello is to Breland's left). Breland floored Honeyghan six times, but the titlist's critics claimed he had defeated a shot fighter.

He Dared To Be Dull

FORMER LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT GREAT

HAROLD JOHNSON

By Nigel Collins

Harold Johnson watched intently as videotapes of some of his memorable fights flickered across the TV screen. He didn't say much at first. He just answered questions politely without too much elaboration. But once he warmed to the task, the conversation flowed as effortlessly as his combinations once did. It was like sitting down with Hemingway and listening to him explain how he wrote his books.

Johnson's biceps bulged impressively beneath his sweatshirt, and his eyes sparkled like a teenager's. At 62, he could still probably mop the floor with most men half his age. Though he hasn't thrown a competitive punch since 1971, when someone mentioned the mega-dollars he could have earned in today's market, the former light heavyweight champion suddenly became very animated.

"I dream about that," he said. "And if my knee wasn't bad, I'd give it a try. I've still got a lot of spunk left."

Johnson then bent over and pulled up his pant leg to reveal a knee criss-crossed with scar tissue. "I had 11 operations. First, I hurt it playing football. Then I hurt it again jumping over a fence. I did all that kind of crazy stuff. Instead of walking around things, I'd jump over."

Though he's always lived in Philadelphia, Johnson was not from the in-your-face school of Philly boxing. Instead, he was a master boxer who could avoid a knockout punch with an almost imperceptible turn of the shoulder; the sort of technician who is able to capitalize on an opponent's mistake, and render him senseless with a paralyzing counterpunch.

Partly because of his cerebral style, Johnson never developed a rabid following. His small but loyal constituency came from those who appreciated the finer points of the game, the true connoisseurs of the art. He was a Rembrandt laboring among finger painters, a Pavarotti

straining to be heard above the din of the Beasty Boys.

Johnson's 25-year boxing career didn't come close to providing financial security. He lives in a senior citizens' home in the Germantown section of Philadelphia. But instead of moaning and groaning about what should have been, he chooses to accent the positive.

"My knee only hurts on rainy or snowy days," the ex-champion said with a chuckle. "And I still do construction work with my brother when he gets extra work."

Though his father was a professional fighter, Johnson wasn't particularly interested in boxing as a youngster. His parents were separated and he grew up with his mother, an iron-fisted woman who just might have been the toughest member of the family.

Restless and eager for adventure, Johnson joined the Navy when he was 15, forging his mother's signature in order to gain admittance.

"I was gone a week before my mother discovered I was in the Navy," remembered Johnson. "She thought I was visiting my aunt. When she found out, she got a little excited. My brother knew where I was all along, and he almost got killed because he didn't tell her."

It was during his tour of duty with Uncle Sam that Johnson had his first and only amateur bout.

"I wasn't boxing, but I was lifting weights and could hit the bag," said Johnson. "They needed someone to box this fellow, and I said okay. I also boxed an exhibition with a pro who was touring around putting on shows for the guys. I found out later he was Billy Conn. But at the time, I didn't know who Billy Conn was."

As incredible as it may seem, this was all the apprenticeship Johnson needed to turn pro upon his 1946 discharge. The fact that he quickly developed into a consummate craftsman only reinforces the notion that great fighters are born rather than made.

"It was in my blood, I guess," he explained. "We were a fighting family. I think I learned how to get out of the way [of a punch] before I learned how to fight."

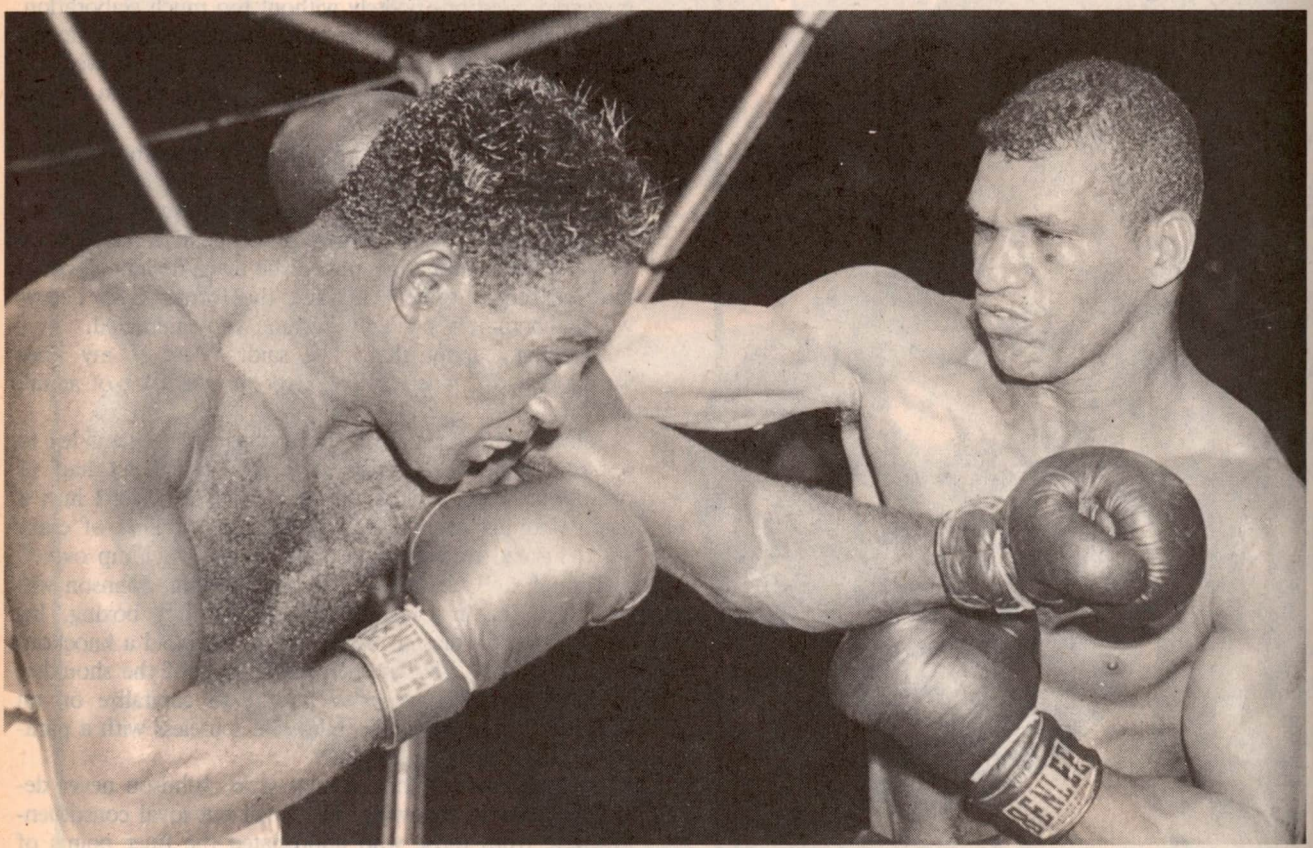
But if Johnson's defensive wizardry bored a certain segment of the boxing populace, it also allowed him to beat many full-fledged heavyweights, including Ezzard Charles, Nino Valdes, Bob Satterfield, Eddie Machen, Bert Whitehurst, and Marty Marshall.

"I think I was more worried when I fought little guys because they were faster," he said. "I think I really weighed about 167 when I fought Charles, but they said I weighed 177. They always built me up just to make it sound good."

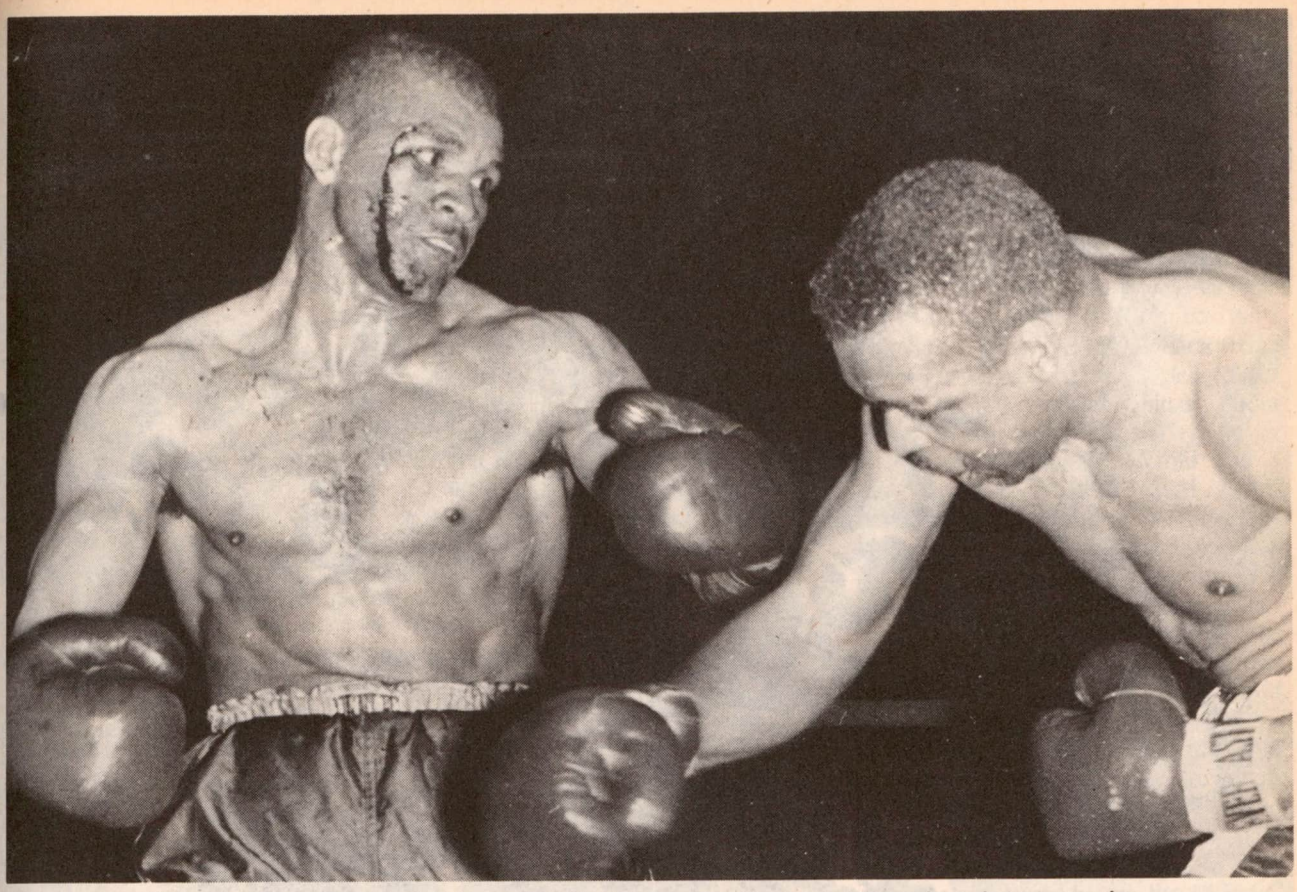
Johnson ripped through his first 24 opponents before dropping a 10-round decision to Archie Moore in April 1949. It was the first in a series of five bouts against his career-long nemesis, and the beginning of many years of frustration. Moore won four of their five encounters, including a 1954 defense of the light heavyweight title.

"I believe I beat Moore at least three or four times," Johnson maintained. "He was one of the best fighters I ever faced, but also one of the dirtiest. See, I gave him trouble so he'd do anything he could to win. He cussed me out, thumbed me, did a lot of dirty things. But I still think I beat him most of the time. He just got the decision."

The year after his title-fight stoppage loss to Moore, Johnson was stopped by Julie Mederos in a highly controversial bout in Philadelphia. It proved to be the low point of his career. Johnson had already outpointed Mederos in 1954, winning in convincing fashion. When Johnson inexplicably toppled to the canvas and was counted out in the second round of the rematch, it caused a major scandal. For its time, the inci-



A 2-1 underdog, Johnson outpointed former heavyweight champion Ezzard Charles in September 1953. Unlike many light heavyweight champions, Johnson was quite successful against the bigger fighters.



Waiting for a second try at the light heavyweight title, Johnson won a blood-soaked 10-rounder against powerpuncher Bob Satterfield in March 1957. He had to wait four more years for that second title shot.

dent was comparable with Roberto Duran's infamous *"no mas"* loss to Sugar Ray Leonard. A major investigation followed and Johnson was suspended for six months. His $5,000 purse was withheld, and his reputation was tarnished.

What actually happened remains a mystery. Johnson still maintains that he was drugged.

"That night in the dressing room, I told my trainer, Skinny Davison, I felt kinda sluggish," he recalls. "He said, 'What do you mean?' I said, 'Well, I feel kinda lazy, like I want to sleep.' I'd felt okay laying down, but when I started shadowboxing to break a sweat, I began to feel funny. I stopped because the room was hazy. I told Skinny I felt like I was floating. He told me it was probably just nerves and not to worry about it. A few minutes later, when I got into the ring, I felt like the ground was coming up. I couldn't stand up. I just fell. It was like I was paralyzed."

The suspicious nature of Johnson's swoon prompted a six-month, statewide moratorium on pro boxing. Johnson was subjected to a polygraph test, passed, and was reinstated.

Though haunted by gossip and nagged by rumor, Johnson finally resumed his career in December 1956 with a decision over Whitehurst. It was the start of a key 12-bout winning streak.

The National Boxing Association stripped the inactive Moore of the title and then matched Johnson and Jesse Bowdry for the vacant crown. Though there was little public demand for the fight, promoter Chris Dundee brought it to Miami Beach on February 7, 1961.

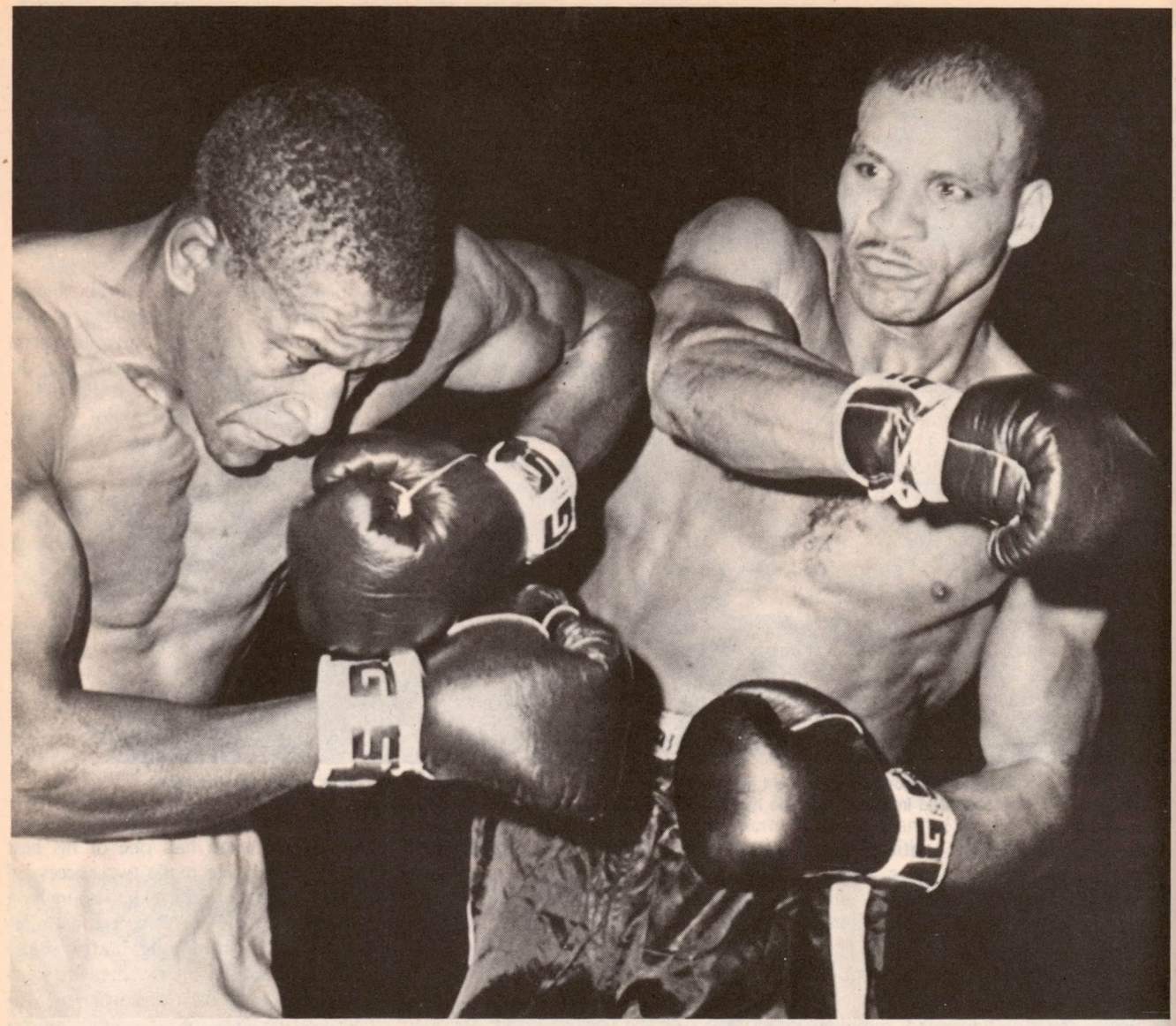
Even though the Bowdry bout was for a specious version of the title, it meant a lot to Johnson. A world championship had always been held out to him as a Holy Grail, the quest for which had sustained him in the most difficult of times. The Philadelphian trained hard—as he always did—and dispatched Bowdry in the ninth round.

On the undercard that night was a young Cassius Clay, who was in awe of Johnson. A star-struck groupie, Clay spent hours demonstrating to his entourage how Johnson had thrown the left hook that led to Bowdry's demise. Unfortunately, adulation and a cheap championship belt were just about all Johnson gained. His purse, after expenses, was $800.

Despite his pitiful purse for beating Bowdry, Johnson had one of his best years in 1961. He made two successful title defenses, stopping hard-punching Von Clay before a full house in Philadelphia and outpointing crafty Eddie Cotton in Seattle. Sandwiched between those wins was his decision over Machen. After years of struggle, Johnson finally seemed to be within jabbing distance of cashing in on his outstanding ability.

It's not common knowledge, but early in 1961, Johnson almost got a crack at Floyd Patterson's heavyweight title. Cus D'Amato, Patterson's manager, knew his fighter couldn't beat top contender Sonny Liston, but he was convinced that Johnson could do it. D'Amato promised Johnson a shot at Patterson if he would first get Liston out of the way. But Johnson said no. He wasn't scared of Sonny—he had sparred with Liston in Philadelphia and claims to have handled him with ease. Instead, Johnson was simply tired of being used as someone else's pawn and declined the invitation to serve as Patterson's policeman—regardless of the potential reward.

Johnson's patience was eventually rewarded. By the spring of 1962, Moore had also lost the recognition of the powerful New York State Athletic



Johnson enjoyed his finest year in 1961, when he won the vacant NBA 175-pound crown and made two defenses, including a 15-round verdict over the technically superb Eddie Cotton in the challenger's hometown of Seattle.

Commission and *The Ring* magazine. It was decided Johnson and Doug Jones would clash for the unified 175-pound title. Johnson received a career-high $24,000 and decisively outpointed Jones.

"I hit Jones with all the power I had, but I couldn't put him down," recalled Johnson. "I mean, I hit him with shots that I've knocked other guys out with . . . or at least knocked them down. He was a real tough guy."

A little more than a month after defeating Jones, Johnson traveled to Berlin and defended against national hero Gustav Scholz. Johnson considers the trip the highlight of his career. Not only did he pull down his biggest purse (about $110,000), but he finally received the royal treatment he'd never been afforded at home.

Just when Johnson figured all his dreams had come true, reality interrupted him. He was originally supposed to make the second defense of his title against Peru's Mauro Mina, but that match fell apart when doctors discovered the South American was suffering from an eye injury. Henry Hank was signed to substitute for Mina, but he too fell out due to an alleged hand injury. Finally, two weeks before the fight, Willie Pastrano was inserted.

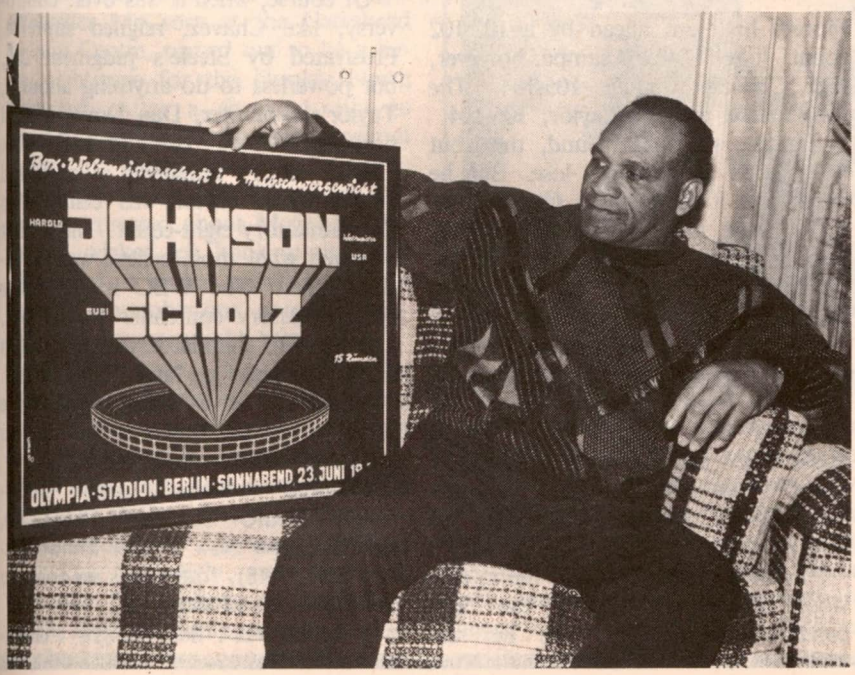
The Pastrano-Johnson matchup of June 1, 1963, is remembered for producing both a boring fight and a questionable decision. Pastrano, a veteran cutie from New Orleans, danced around the ring at the Las Vegas Convention Center, clutching and grabbing every time Johnson got within punching range. It was not a pretty sight.

While Johnson looked flat and frustrated, Pastrano wasn't as badly outclassed as Johnson's fans like to believe. Between clinches, Pastrano peppered the defending champion with numerous pitty-pat punches. In a wishy-washy sort of way, he outhustled Johnson, who wasn't programmed to respond to the challenger's unorthodox style. Strangely enough, only a few days before the fight, even Pastrano was sure the champion would retain the title. Then something happened that changed his mind and gave him the confidence he needed.

"I still feel guilty about that fight," said writer Jack McKinney, who was both a friend and booster of Johnson's. "I went out to Vegas to cover the fight for the *Philadelphia Daily News*. I had just walked into the hotel when [matchmaker] Teddy Brenner came up to me and said, 'Jack, you've got to do me a favor. Willie Pastrano is in the coffee shop right now and I want you to talk to him. He doesn't

Challenger Willie Pastrano and champion Johnson both connect during their terribly dull Las Vegas title fight in June 1963 (above). Pastrano outhustled Johnson and took the crown via disputed decision.

Johnson, 62 and still residing in Philadelphia, poses with some of his boxing memorabilia at promoter Russell Peltz' office in Philadelphia (above and below). Johnson is Peltz' favorite fighter of all time.



think he even belongs in the same ring with Harold Johnson and we can't do a thing with him. You know Johnson better than anybody. Would you go in and explain to Willie that Harold is mortal just like everybody else?'

"So I went into the coffee shop and sat with Pastrano, who was having a weight problem as well. He was eating some fruit and cottage cheese concoction and looked like a dead man. All I thought I was doing was guaranteeing a better fight, so I proceeded to tell him a few critical things about Johnson.

"I told Willie that Harold had a tendency to parry a jab instead of slipping it. I told Pastrano to make the move successful for Harold at first. But then, when he'd gotten him in a groove, I told him he should shoulder-feint the jab, and beat him to the punch with an inside hook. Then, as he's finishing the move, pivot, and throw a walk-away jab."

Unwittingly, McKinney had given Pastrano a blueprint for victory and, just as importantly, the confidence to put the plan into action. On fight night, Pastrano lulled Johnson to sleep and stole the title before the Philadelphian heard the alarm clock ringing. Whether or not Pastrano deserved the decision is a matter of opinion.

"Johnson never saw Pastrano as a threat," summed up McKinney, "and in the end, that led to his downfall. Throughout the fight Harold lacked initiative, and spent most of the time trying to figure out the goofy pattern he was dealing with."

By the time he had his last fight, in March 1971, Johnson, already a grandfather, was coming off a two-year layoff. Hobbled by his bad knee, he suffered a cut-eye TKO in a rematch against Herschel Jacobs—whom he had decisioned over 10 rounds four years earlier—and finally retired. Though his record, 76-11 (32), indicated his great talent, you'd have to examine each fight to really appreciate just how special a talent Johnson was, even in his mid-to-late 30s.

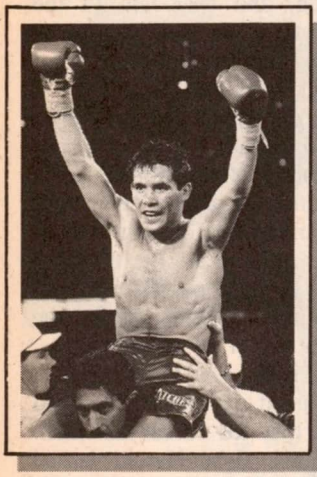
A few years before age, injury, and inactivity caught up with Johnson, Larry Merchant, then sports editor of the *Philadelphia Daily News*, asked Brenner why he didn't give Johnson a shot on national TV. Brenner's reply serves as an epitaph for Johnson's bittersweet career.

"Harold Johnson represents perfection in the art of boxing," said Brenner. "And there is no room in *this world* for perfection." ■

RINGSIDE REPORTS

FIGHTER OF THE MONTH: Julio Cesar Chavez

Julio Cesar Chavez may or may not be the greatest Mexican fighter ever *(see cover story),* but by stopping Meldrick Taylor with two seconds remaining in their fight, he proved to be today's greatest fighter. Obscured by the controversy surrounding referee Richard Steele's intervention—Taylor was ahead on two of the three cards—was the fact that Chavez created an opportunity for victory and then capitalized on it. That sounds simple, but given the circumstances, and the quality of his opposition, it was remarkable.



In boxing, one measure of greatness is how a champion rebounds from his first defeat. Chavez rebounded *before* being defeated. This is not to suggest that he'll win for as long as he chooses to fight; he'll inevitably experience defeat, perhaps as soon as he meets Taylor in a rematch. But his future battles aside, Chavez left an indelible mark on the fight game with his thrilling victory.

In a month in which a myriad of transient champions won and lost a myriad of cheapened titles, Chavez' triumph was one for the ages.

JULIO CESAR CHAVEZ-MELDRICK TAYLOR

LAS VEGAS—While most sports fans were busy cruising "The Road To The Final Four," boxing was offering its most memorable battle since Hagler and Hearns stopped hearts in 1985. A kid from the dusty roads of Culiacan, Mexico, and another from the menacing streets of Philadelphia staged such a glorious alley brawl that the 9,130 fans at the Las Vegas Hilton thought they'd been taken for a ride down the highway to heaven.

The crowd's heaven turned into Taylor's private hell, however, when referee Richard Steele stopped Taylor's junior welterweight unification showdown with Chavez at 2:58 of the 12th round. At the time, judge Jerry Roth had Taylor leading 108-101, and Dave Moretti had him ahead by a 107-102 count. Judge Chuck Giampa, however, had Chavez winning 105-104. *The Ring's* card favored Taylor, 106-104.

Entering the final round, the bout was clearly Taylor's to lose. But he didn't lose it so much as Chavez won it, with the most dramatic rally ever seen in a championship prize ring. Driving an exhausted Taylor into a corner in the final moments, he landed a crunching right that dropped the IBF champion on the seat of his red, white, and blue trunks. Taylor rose at the count of five, nodded slightly when Steele twice asked him, "Are you all right?", but never answered verbally. Steele signaled the end two seconds before the bell.

"I saw a beaten fighter," the referee would later explain. "His eyes and condition were telling me he had enough."

"No way in hell he should have stopped a fight of this magnitude," said Taylor, proving that he still had at least one counterpunch left in him. "I was winning. It's ludicrous."

Taylor, 24-1-1 (14), had been leading primarily because he dominated the infighting, robbing Chavez of his favorite workplace. Taylor nailed the WBC titlist with so many blinding combinations to the head and body that, at times, Chavez, 68-0 (58), was reluctant to even throw punches. The Mexican did, however, score often from long range, leaving Taylor with two badly swollen eyes, a bloody nose, and a cut inside his mouth that caused him to swallow nearly two pints of blood.

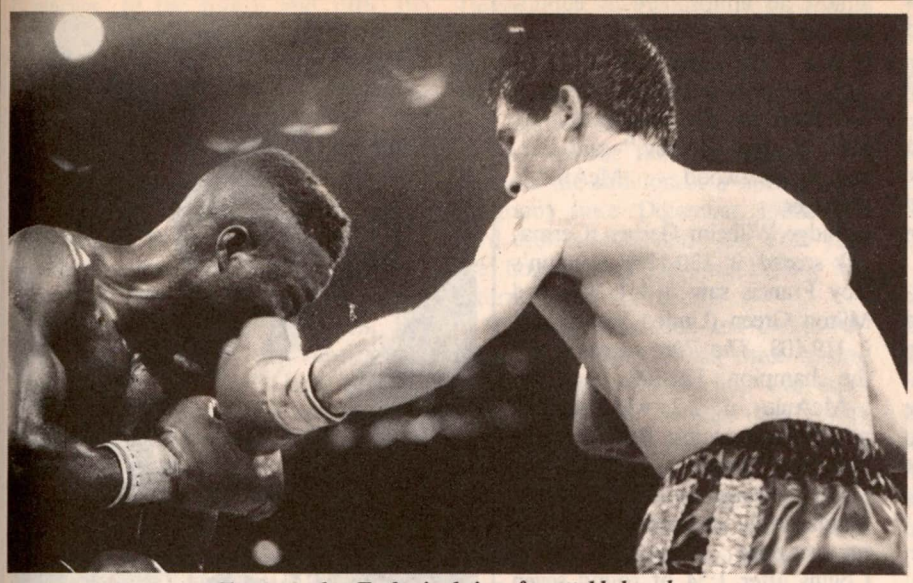
The action see-sawed in the first five rounds, but Taylor took command in the sixth, seventh, and eighth, landing left hooks with surprising ease. His dominance only made the final quarter of the bout even more dramatic, for it forced Chavez to summon the greatness inside him, and helped turn the 10th, 11th, and 12th into three candidates for Round of the Year.

Of course, when it was over, controversy, like Chavez, reigned supreme. Frustrated by Steele's judgment call, but powerless to do anything about it, Taylor's promoter, Dan Duva, instead protested to the IBF and WBC that Chavez hadn't remained in a neutral corner when Taylor was being given the mandatory eight-count. The protest achieved what most believe was its desired effect: The WBC made Taylor the mandatory contender for Chavez, and the IBF mandated that a rematch must take place no later than October.

When the leaves change colors, the scenery on the highway to heaven should be simply spectacular.

On the undercard, junior welterweight Pedro Sanchez, 15-0-1 (8), decked fellow New Yorker Tunde Foster, 22-3-1 (18), four times en route to an eighth-round stoppage.

Former WBA heavyweight champi-



Chavez catches Taylor in their unforgettable brawl

on Greg Page, 31-8 (24), needed just 1:56 to halt Martis Fleming, a West Indies entry boasting a suspicious record of 16-0 (15).

In a welterweight clash, Mexico's Genaro Leon, 34-2-1 (30), battered Louisville, Kentucky's Tyrone Moore, 32-9-1 (22), before Moore's corner halted the slaughter after the seventh round.

(3-17-90)

Jeff Ryan

GLENN McCRORY-JEFF LAMPKIN

GATESHEAD, ENGLAND—What was expected to be a very straight-forward title defense by IBF cruiserweight titleholder McCrory at the Gateshead Leisure Centre, turned out to be a living nightmare for the likeable North East lad. After a shocking, not to mention painful, third-round knockout defeat to American Jeff Lampkin, there were serious considerations and doubts expressed about McCrory's future. A wicked left hook to the short rib proved to be the payoff punch, as the IBF's number-one contender annexed the cruiserweight title.

McCrory won the vacant title against Kenya's Patrick Lumumba last June after campaigning unsuccessfully as a heavyweight. Ironically, many people felt that the Lampkin fight would be McCrory's last as a cruiserweight because of increased problems at making the weight, and plans were underway for a return to the heavyweight division, gaining automatic top-10 status in the IBF's ratings.

Lampkin, however, had different ideas. He was going to send McCrory packing out of the cruiserweight division, not leaving in a blaze of glory. The 28-year-old challenger, from Youngstown, Ohio, firmly intended to upset the odds just as his Ohio compatriot, James Douglas, had done just over a month before.

Lampkin, 188¼, immediately took the fight to the taller champion, grabbing the crowd's attention with a quick right hand. McCrory, 189½, countered well with a solid right of his own, and then proceeded to land a series of rapid-fire punches to win the round.

Lampkin targets McCrory's body

Round two saw the fighters trading with more authority. Both began teeing off, putting a lot more weight behind their punches. McCrory seemed to stagger Lampkin with a right followed by a left hook, but the American responded with a good left-right to the head of the champion. The challenger returned to his corner at the bell an extremely confident-looking fighter, while the 6'4" McCrory seemed to know that it was not going to be an easy night.

McCrory was obviously going to have to produce something special as Lampkin gained more and more momentum. Lampkin was landing better punches, and more often, too, and after about two minutes of the round, he lined up and measured a wide, sickening, and lethal left hook to the right side of McCrory's body. The punch was as perfect as it could be, landing exactly on McCrory's short rib. It had a delayed, yet deadly effect. McCrory fell to his knees, a position he remained in. Referee Randy Neuman seemed to hesitate before picking up the count, but when he did, it was clear that McCrory would not rise in time. The punch had taken every breath out of his body, and the count was a formality. The time was 2:27 of round three.

Lampkin said afterward: "The condition I was in for this fight, I just knew I was going to stop him." In fact, Lampkin and trainer Victor Valle, who trained Gerry Cooney, won a sizable bet that he would stop the champion inside of three rounds.

For McCrory, it was a very painful defeat, and while he considers his future, perhaps pondering thoughts of moving up to heavyweight, he would do well to heed the advice of the new titleholder, who has had experience at the higher weight.

"Those guys are too big, man!"

(3-22-90)

Brian Doogan

DAVE McAULEY-LOUIS CURTIS

BELFAST, NORTHERN IRELAND—The St. Patrick's Day celebrations went well into the night when Larne's McAuley made his second defense of the IBF flyweight title, outpointing Louis Curtis, United States, in the electric-charged atmosphere of the 6,000-seat King's Hall arena.

For the Irish champion, it was all too easy, as he treated the delighted and vociferous crowd to unquestionably his most clinically controlled and proficient performance. He boxed superbly, and although he could not stop his opponent, that was more a tribute to Curtis' determination, courage, and resilience than any real failing on McAuley's part.

McAuley had said that he was dedicating this fight to long-time friend and trainer Eddie Shaw, who was unable to work the corner because of serious illness. Shaw, however, would not dare miss one of his man's finest hours, so he watched the contest from a seat at the back of the area, leaving immediately after the result had been announced. Sadly, just one week later, Shaw lost his gallant fight against cancer. Irish boxing has lost a great trainer and a better man.

McAuley had to make three trips to the scales before making the 112-pound limit. Curtis also scaled 112. Sporting bright green shorts (what else on St. Patrick's night?), McAuley settled down into a nice, loose rhythm from the opening bell. Snappy combinations and hard left hooks to the body had the crowd chanting, "Here we go; here we go!"

McAuley was as confident as one can be. He was landing shot after shot under his challenger's guard. In fact, McAuley found Curtis at times so easy to hit that he later said, "My hands felt sore at the finish after hitting him with so many hard punches."

Round three was the champion's best. For the full three minutes he was in total command, landing punches almost at will. Curtis was trapped, and on a few occasions he was visibly shaken. All three judges scored the stanza 10-8 for McAuley, and as the round ended, it looked like the challenger would not be fit for much more.

But Curtis, much to his credit, bravely hung on, and even though his legs betrayed him at times, he flatly refused to lie down.

McAuley piled up points with a masterly left jab, and as the rounds progressed, particularly into the final three, he seemed resigned to the fact that he was not going to knock the challenger out. Roared on every second of the way by the capacity crowd, the IBF titleholder put up a grandstand finish in one last valiant effort to put his man away. The final bell sounded amidst an atmosphere of euphoria. Not a great fight, but certainly a great occasion.

"That was a magnificent performance by the champion. He made it look so easy," said Barney Eastwood, McAuley's manager.

Judge Wilheim Gerber (Germany) scored it 120-108; London's Roy Francis saw it 118-109, and Milton Green (United States) had it 119-108. *The Ring* scored it for the champion, 120-108.

McAuley, 15-2-2, will probably next defend against British champion Pat Clinton.

On the undercard, British super middleweight champion Sam Storey stopped Welshman Simon Collins after 1:54 of round seven in a scheduled 10.

Belfast bantamweight John Lowey, 119, stopped Manchester's Des Gargano, 122½, 1:10 into the last round of a scheduled six.

In a six-round cruiserweight contest, Dubliner Joe Egan, 186½, outpointed Carlton Hedley, 191, Streatham.

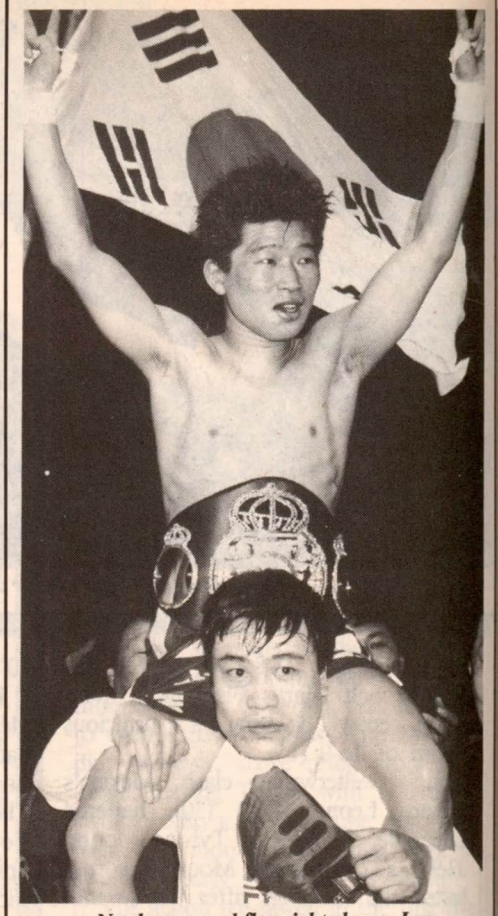
A lightweight contest over eight three-minute rounds saw Liverpool's Nigel Wenton, 135½, stop Ohio's Scott de Pew, 135½, after 1:39 of round two.

Ritchie Wenton, 115½, Liverpool, outpointed American Mark Johnston, 115½, Ohio, over four three-minute rounds.

Belfast super middleweighht Ray Close, 168, avenged his only loss despite being knocked down in round two. Close recovered to outpoint Denys Cronin, 169½, Caerphilly, Wales.

The promoter was Barney Eastwood.
(3-17-90)

Brian Doogan



Newly crowned flyweight champ Lee

YUL WOO LEE-JESUS ROJAS

TAEJON, SOUTH KOREA—Busy South Korean warrior Lee, the former WBC light flyweight champion, 112, captured the WBA flyweight throne, as he stalked defending champion Rojas, piled up points steadily with his constant aggressiveness, and won a split but very popular 12-round decision at Chungmu Gymnasium.

The 26-year-old Rojas, 112, had to fight with just his left hand due to a right shoulder injury suffered in training. Rojas attempted to outjab the willing Lee, but was unsuccessful. The the crafty Venezuelan, who was making his first defense, was overpowered by the vigorous 23-year-old Korean.

It was inexplicable that one judge scored for Rojas, who hadn't landed enough punches to win. The scoring: Patricia Jarman (United States), 116-113, for Lee; Masakazu Uchida (Japan), 116-114, for Lee, and Hector Hernandez (Mexico), 115-114, for Rojas.

Ramiro Machado, Rojas' manager, said, "I had believed in Jesus' [ability to win] even with his one hand." Rojas fought well despite his handicap, but Lee looked an obvious winner.

It was a monotonous bout. The first round saw Lee feel out Rojas, who threw just a few jabs. The Korean released a solid one-two to the chest of the upright stylist. In round two, Lee attacked with solid but inaccurate combinations, while Rojas kept his composure by blocking most of the punches. Rojas remained defensive and threw sporadic jabs in the third, while Lee was busily moving and throwing

punches. In the fourth and fifth, the baby-faced Korean forced his foe to the ropes with a flurry of punches, most of which were blocked. But Rojas retaliated only with a few jabs, followed by left uppercuts to the chin.

Judge Jarman gave the first five rounds to the scrappy challenger.

The cool Rojas scored well with his jabs and uppercuts and won the seventh and eighth rounds by small margins. Lee traded more punches, but they were negated by the Venezuelan's tight guard. The 5'5" Lee, an inch shorter than Rojas, took command in the ninth, as he repeatedly pinned the champion to the ropes with energetic combos. The 10th witnessed Rojas moving side-to-side and tossing more jabs than in previous rounds. Lee tried to catch the one-handed champion, who remained elusive.

The Korean looked fresh and full of stamina in the 11th, connecting with jabs and one-twos that put Rojas on the defensive. They fought on almost even terms in the last session, although two judges gave the round to Rojas. Had he been able to use his right hand, the Venezuelan might have won this fight. But it was Lee, 19-2 (10), whose hand was ultimately raised by American referee Eddie Eckert. Rojas fell to 18-2-1 (8).

The newly crowned Lee will reportedly next take on OPBF flyweight champion Romy Navarrete, Philippines, in May. If he's successful, he'll then come to Japan and respond to the challenge of Leopard Tamakuma, a 5'8" flyweight.

WBA supervisor: Aurello Flengo (Panama)

Promoter: Ho Yun Chun's Kukdong Promotions

TV: telecast nationwide by KBS in Korea

(3-10-90)

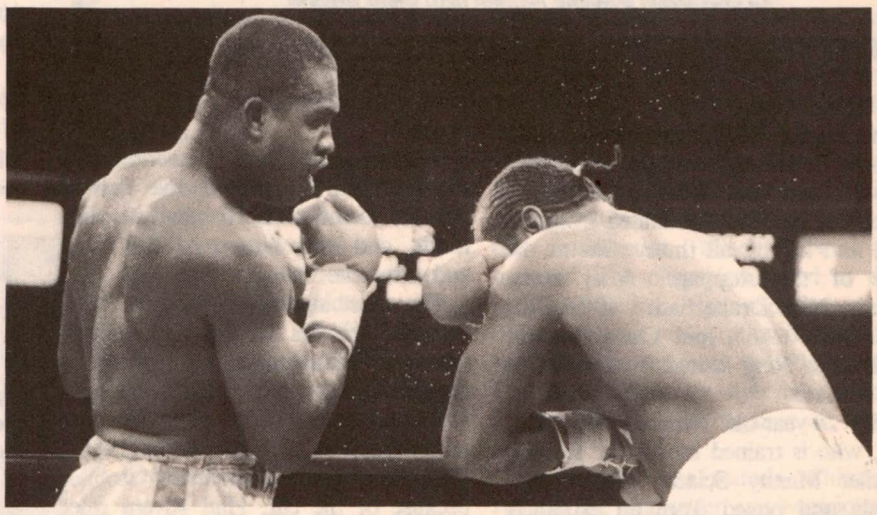
Joe Koizumi

RAZOR RUDDOCK-MICHAEL DOKES

NEW YORK CITY—In May 1981, Gerry Cooney scored a vicious first-round kayo over Ken Norton at Madison Square Garden. Ruddock's fourth-round demolition of Dokes brought back memories of that knockout, partly because of the circumstances—Dokes, like Norton, was trapped in a corner, and Ruddock, like Cooney, landed two wind-'em-up left hooks—and partly because there have been so few Garden shows since.

This was the first live Garden card (without the addition of a closed-circuit program) since December 1986. The card drew 12,624, and New York fans are hoping that big-time boxing has returned here for good.

With both Ruddock and Dokes rated fifth or better by all three boxing organizations, this matchup was especially significant. Perhaps that's why Ruddock decided not to ask for a postponement. He entered the ring with an injured right hand and had done no sparring for two weeks. As it turned out, his left would be more than adequate.



Ruddock bangs Dokes at the Garden

Dokes, 240, Miami Beach, 41-3-2 (27), and Ruddock, 230, Toronto, 23-1-1 (16), engaged in a classic stareout and then boxed cautiously in round one. Ruddock won the round by landing a lead right in the last five seconds. Dokes took the second, another close round, by shaking his foe with a short hook. But late in the third, Ruddock took control, scoring with a jab and two rights. The pace and the conditions—the heavyweights were crowding each other—seemed to favor the shorter and older Dokes.

After trading rights early in the fourth, the fighters inched toward a corner. Dokes then dropped his right hand and Ruddock jumped in with a terrific lead left that was half-hook, half-uppercut. The blow drove Dokes into a sitting position on the second rope. A followup right missed, but a second hook forced Dokes' hands by his sides, and a third—Ruddock dipped *way* down for maximum leverage—drove him face-first into the mat. Referee Arthur Mercante Jr. began a count, but Dr. Barry Jordan was in the ring before 10 was tolled. The time of the stoppage was 53 seconds.

"For 15, 30 seconds, he was unconscious," said Jordan, "and for another minute and a half, he was lethargic and drowsy."

After the fight Dokes said he would consider retirement. But a day later, he had already begun hedging. Ruddock has positioned himself favorably and will likely face the winner of the Douglas-Holyfield-Tyson series.

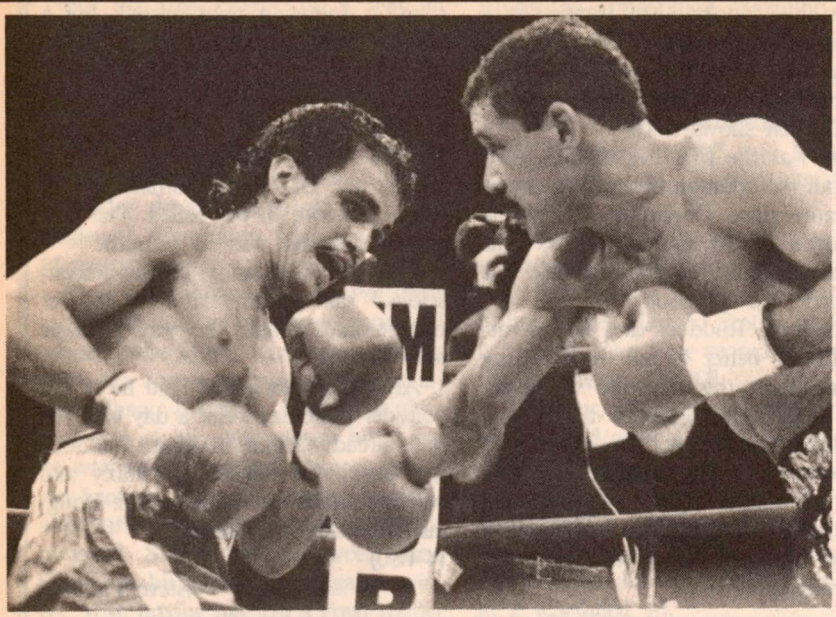
(4-4-90)

Steve Farhood

JUAN NAZARIO-EDWIN ROSARIO

NEW YORK CITY—The left-handed complements to Rosario's career—Hector Camacho, Jose Luis Ramirez, and Nazario—have produced three of his four losses. (Julio Cesar Chavez, who boxes from an orthodox stance, holds the other win.) A warning, Edwin: Don't train in a gym that has a mirror. When you pose, you'll be staring right at another southpaw.

Against fellow Puerto Rican Nazario on the Madison Square Garden undercard of Ruddock-Dokes, Rosario posed a bit too much. As a result, he lost the WBA lightweight title via eighth-round TKO. At age 27, his run at the top of the 135-pound class seems



An unexpected scenario: Nazario (left) whips Rosario

just about over.

In August 1987, Rosario stopped Nazario in the eighth round of a dirty brawl. This bout was no less foul-filled, but Nazario dominated from the start and led on all three cards at the time of the stoppage. After seven rounds, Nick Drake had it 69-64; Rodolfo Hill, 69-65, and Carlos Sucrea, 70-63. *The Ring* scored it 69-65, also for Nazario.

The 26-year-old Nazario, 135, 22-2 (16), who is trained by former Rosario handler Manny Sciaca, started cautiously and boxed from an extremely wide stance. Rosario, 134¼, 35-4 (31), seemed comfortable with the slow pace. He pawed with his jab and waited to land his sole weapon, a still-devastating straight right. But the defending titlist never properly gauged the distance between him and his left-handed opponent, and his cross was never a factor.

During the third, Nazario began to outhustle the champion. He countered effectively to the body and scored with an occasional straight left. He also got the better of an exchange after the bell. The challenger suffered a cut over his right eye in the fourth, but given the number of times the lightweights clashed heads, the facial damage was minimal.

With about 50 seconds left in the fourth, Nazario connected with a left and Rosario dipped, his right knee seemingly touching the canvas. Referee Luis Rivera, however, ruled no knockdown (Rosario has never been floored).

Rosario was pinned in a corner for most of the fifth, and the fighters wrestled in the sixth, frequently butting heads, and then hitting on the break and after the bell.

The most significant moment came with 50 seconds left in the seventh, when an unintentional butt opened a deep diagonal cut over Rosario's right eyebrow. Rivera didn't see the butt, and Rosario and Nazario fought on. (The bout was subsequently stopped because of the cut. Had Rivera ruled that it had been a butt-induced cut, the scorecards would have been gathered, and Nazario would have triumphed by technical decision.)

After an uneventful eighth, Dr. Billy Latham examined Rosario and decided that he should not continue. Nazario leaped from his stool and was carried around the ring in celebration.

Also on the undercard, former WBA heavyweight champion Bonecrusher Smith, 247, Lillington, North Carolina, 24-8-1 (18), scored a first-round knockdown en route to a dreadfully dull 12-round unanimous decision over another former champion, 37-year-old Mike Weaver, 211, Los Angeles, 34-15-1 (24). The scores were 118-107, 118-109, and 117-110. Afterward, Smith, 35, called for George Foreman, and Weaver announced his retirement. This was a rematch; in 1986, Smith scored a devastating and shocking first-round kayo over Weaver. The referee for the rematch was Joe Santarpia.

Rising middleweight Merqui "El Corombo" Sosa, 162, Brooklyn, 17-0 (12), stopped Argentina's Jorge Martinez, 156¼, 16-6-3 (7), in the 10th and final round. Martinez was a reluctant warrior.

In a scheduled six-rounder, conversation-piece heavyweight Yuri Vaulin, 206, 2-0 (1), dropped and stopped Brooklyn's James "747" Holmes, 229, 3-6 (3), with a combination straight left-head butt in round one. Vaulin, a southpaw, is the most highly touted of the Russian fighters now campaigning in the United States.

Brooklyn's Jade "The Jewel" Scott, 181, 5-0 (4), scored a first-round kayo of Harrison Pearson, 184, Camden, New Jersey, 3-2.

Making his pro debut, Mark Wizbicki, 194, New Hyde Park, won a unanimous four-round decision over John Hale, 200, Brooklyn, 1-1.

The promoters of the pay-per-view televised card were Victor Potamkin, Murad Muhammad, and Madison Square Garden Boxing.
(4-4-90)

Steve Farhood

SIMON BROWN-TYRONE TRICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.—You know fighters don't like each other when they continue to fire insults after they're done firing punches.

"Simon is ugly like a gorilla," Trice said after his unsuccessful challenge of IBF welterweight champion Brown. "Simon is a bad excuse for a champion."

"I wanted to punish him," said Brown. "I wanted him to remember this the rest of his life."

The animosity shared by Brown and Trice helped make an exciting and dramatic title fight before 4,702 fans at the Starplex/D.C. Armory. In April 1988, Brown captured the vacant crown by rising from the canvas to kayo Trice in round 14. This time, the slow-starting Brown, 33-1 (25), lost the first two rounds and then dominated the rest of the fight before halting a battered Trice, 35-3 (29), at 51 seconds of round 10. It was Brown's seventh defense.

Trice's plan was to box, and for six minutes, he was effective, keeping Brown, 146½, Germantown, Maryland, at the end of his jab and countering with crisp crosses. Brown, as

pumped up as he's ever been, chugged forward and found offensive success only after the bell ending the second, when he landed a three-punch combination.

Brown inched closer in the lively third and fourth, but suffered a potentially disastrous handicap in the fifth, when a series of punches opened a cut on his left eyebrow.

"I didn't even know I was cut until my cutman [Don Nelson] started working on me," Brown said.

After sustaining the cut, Brown escalated his attack and punished Trice, 147, Detroit, in a neutral corner. Trice rebounded to take round six, but in the seventh, Brown established his hook as his primary weapon. With about 80 seconds remaining in the eighth, a hook exploded into Trice's jaw, and the challenger slumped to the floor. He rose at referee Steve Smoger's count of eight, and then repeatedly grabbed Brown. Trice lost a point for excessive holding, but the deduction seemed worth it; at least he survived until the bell.

Brown relaxed in the ninth and began to paw at his cut, which had reopened. In the 10th, however, he demanded violence. A hook staggered a tiring Trice, and four more hooks, a right, and then another hook followed. Smoger wisely intervened despite Trice's objections.

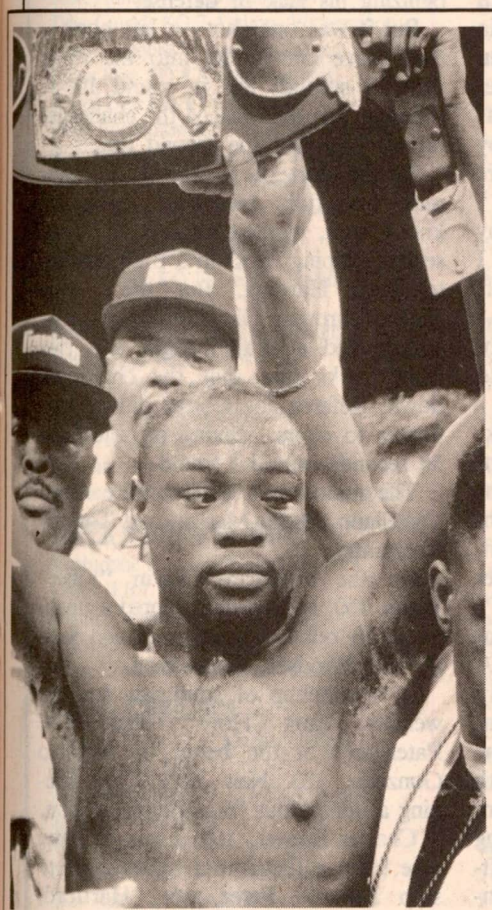
"If I knew the ref was gonna be paid, I'd of paid him a little bit more myself," the bitter—but never classy—loser said later.

Immediately after the stoppage, Brown threateningly rushed to Trice's corner. Seconds later, he approached Trice and tried to hug him. He was pushed away, and a minor scuffle broke out.

"He said that [after the first fight] he kicked his wife out of bed and put my picture in," Brown said afterward. "Now he's gonna have to do it again."

Brown was ahead at the time of the stoppage by scores of 88-81 (Sheila Harmon), 88-81 (Robert Watson), and 87-82 (Leroy Brown). *The Ring* had Brown ahead, 86-82.

On the undercard of the poorly organized show, 1988 Olympic silver medalist Riddick Bowe, 223½, Brooklyn, advanced to 15-0 (14) with a second-round stoppage of 34-year-old heavybag Robert Colay, 242½, Atlantic City, who dropped to a reported 7-6-1. Body shots brought a knockdown at the end of the first and referee Milton Green's intervention 49 seconds into the second.



It wasn't simple for Simon

In a strange mismatchup, Canadian veteran Donnie Poole, 152½, Toronto, who has had 40 bouts, lost a six-round majority decision to 21-year-old Aaron "The Soldier" Smith, 156½, Rockville, Maryland, a rookie of only six bouts. Poole, 36-4 (27), consistently pounded Smith's body, but was rocked by straight punches to the head. Smith, 4-2 (2), won by scores of 58-56, 59-56, and 57-57. After the verdict was announced, one of Smith's handlers jumped over the top rope—and fell on his face.

Local prospect Leslie "White Lightning" Johnson, 149½, Rockville, Maryland, advanced to 2-0 (2) with a second-round TKO of James "Kid Calvin" Moody, 150, Portsmouth, Virginia. The time of the stoppage was 1:36. Moody, who was dropped in the first, pulled a *no mas* in round two. He fell to 1-2.

Another 1988 Olympian, Todd Foster, 137, Houston, 11-0 (11), scored a TKO at 3:00 of round one against Atlantic City's Sammy Ruiz, 133.

The ring announcer was appropriately named "Discombobulating" Jones, and the round-card girls, who were mostly boys, were booed.
(4-1-90)

Steve Farhood

SOT CHITALADA-RIO SIODORA

BANGKOK, THAILAND—WBC flyweight champion Chitalada is regarded as one of the most skillful titlists in the world. But the 27-year-old Thai gave a lackluster performance and disappointed the crowd at Lumpinee Stadium, although he retained the throne by unanimous decision over Filipino champ Siodora over 12 monotonous rounds.

It was a rough affair, as Siodora, 20, kept recklessly unleashing jolting blows, while Chitalada responded to the unorthodox attacks with big punches. The champion failed to display his vaunted lefts, and limited his offense to one punch at a time against the willing mixer from the Philippines. The Thai forgot his style of matador and became a bull against a fellow bull.

In the first two rounds, Chitalada felt out the challenger and occasionally countered to score points. Stepping side to side in round three, he connected with lefts and rights and almost fell out of the ring after missing with a big shot. The champion sustained a bruised left eye after a collision of heads.

The Filipino continued swinging roughly in the fourth session, and the Thai champ stepped back and counterpunched, albeit inaccurately. Though taking few blows, Chitalada looked bewildered by Siodora's rough-and-tumble way of fighting. The sixth saw the confident champion making good use of his footwork, as he tried to outbox his shorter opponent. He was in command in the round, and he should have continued the strategy. But Chitalada traded again with the game Filipino in brutal fashion. In the seventh, the Thai repeatedly stepped back and countered with right uppercuts against his crouching rival, but his

punches didn't land with precision.

In round eight, Mexican referee Lope Garcia penalized Siodora one point for using his head at close range. The ninth might have been the only round the Filipino took in this bout. Siodora came forward and stalked the champion but missed plenty of punches. Chitalada showed his best in the 10th, when a right sent Siodora staggering to the ropes. He followed up with lefts and rights, cornering his foe with solid combinations.

The Thai crowd anticipated a stoppage in the last two rounds. But the 11th and 12th followed the dull pattern established in the earlier rounds. Both flyweights threw big punches, only to clinch time and again. Garcia had to repeatedly separate them.

All three judges gave their tallies to Chitalada: Malcolm Bulner (Australia), 118-109; Takeaki Kanaya (Japan), 119-113, and Dae Eun Chang (South Korea), 118-110. But the fight wasn't as lopsided as the scores indicated.

Many of the Thai spectators jeered Chitalada's performance. WBC President Jose Sulaiman, who attended the bout, said, "Chitalada had difficulties coping with the challenger, who was lowering his head very frequently. Though it was a close fight, Sot proved a good boxer."

Some experts pointed out Chitalada's lack of sufficient training prior to this defense. The champion, making the first defense of his second title reign, is 20-2 (13). His stock definitely dropped with this lackluster effort. Siodora fell to 12-3-1 (3).

WBC supervisor: Frank Quill (Australia)

Promoter: Sombhop Srisongvongse

TV: Channel 5 in Thailand

(1-30-90)

Joe Koizumi

Harding aims for down under vs. Giovannini

JEFF HARDING-NESTOR GIOVANNINI

ATLANTIC CITY—Returning to the site of his title-winning effort against Dennis Andries last year, Australia's Harding, 174, found himself in another competitive fight. But unlike the Andries fight, this one wasn't supposed to be very competitive. In fact, before the fight, Bill Morday, Harding's promoter, was already trying to line up his next title defense.

But Giovannini, 175, who lost a close decision to Harding in Australia last year, was not a fighter to be taken lightly. The Argentine challenger repeatedly scored with overhand rights and showed a fierce determination by rising from two knockdowns before being stopped in the 11th.

"[Giovannini] proved to be a worthy opponent," said Harding. "When I fought him the first time, I let him off the hook."

This time as well, Harding gave Giovannini more than one opportunity to get back into the fight.

Giovannini, 28-5-2 (9), started quickly by firing left-right combinations through the wide-open defense of the champion. But an injury to his right hand in round two slowed the Argentine's pace. "I could never recover from it," Giovannini claimed.

Harding, 17-0 (14), responded by increasing the tempo in the third. A hook rattled Giovannini, and a right hand-left hook combo sent him down.

Harding continued to plod after the challenger and built a points lead with an effective jab. But rounds six, seven, and eight saw Giovannini creeping back into the fight, as he landed left-right combinations at will. An accidental clash of heads in the seventh opened a small cut above Harding's left eye.

"When I put everything into one shot, I was leaving myself open for two or more shots," said Harding, recognizing his lack of defense.

But it was one shot—a left hook—that drove Giovannini into the ropes with 30 seconds left in round 10. A followup left then placed the challenger on his back for the second time.

At the start of round 11, Giovannini, not fully recovered from the knockdown, planted his feet and fired several looping rights in a final attempt to kayo Harding. But the Aussie walked through Giovannini's punches and landed a straight right and two solid hooks that sent the challenger down. Referee Joe Cortez didn't even bother to count, waving off the fight 56 seconds into the round.

The main event judges were Carol Castellano, Sheila Martin, and Tommy Kaczmarek.

On the undercard, Kevin "Killer" Watts, 160, Pleasantville, scored a unanimous 10-round decision over John Scully, 161, Windsor, Connecticut.

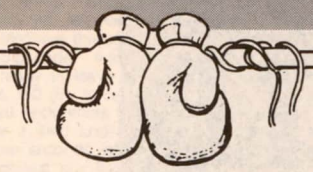
In a matchup of southpaw featherweights, Frank "Holy" Toledo, 124, Paterson, got the better of Antonio Gonzalez, 123, New York City, winning a unanimous four-round decision.

Charles Brewer, 160, Essex County, rose from a first-round knockdown to stop Roberto Perez, 161, Hartford, Connecticut, in the third round.

(3-18-90)

Robert Cassidy ■

WORLDWIDE RESULTS



HEAVYWEIGHTS

Razor Ruddock KO 4 Michael Dokes
Tim Witherspoon KO 3 Greg Gunnel
Riddick Bowe KO 2 Robert Colay
Bonecrusher Smith W 12 Mike Weaver
Gary Mason W 10 Everett Martin
Greg Page KO 1 Martis Fleming
Lennox Lewis KO 1 Calvin Jones
Jesse Ferguson KO 6 Terry Armstrong
Bruce Seldon KO 8 Jerry Jones
David Bey KO 3 Paul Bradshaw
Jimmy Thunder KO 3 Mauricio Villegas
Ric Enis W 12 Tim Tomashek
Alex Garcia KO 4 Dion Burgess

CRUISERWEIGHTS

Jeff Lampkin KO 3 Glenn McCrory
(Wins IBF Title)
Taoufik Belbouli KO 7 Johnny Held
Nate Miller W 12 Tyrone Booze
Johnny Nelson KO 4 Lou Gent
Mike Hunter W 12 Dwight Qawi
Dave Garside KO 7 Anthony Witherspoon
Derek Angol KO 8 Andy Straughn
Loren Ross KO 8 Arthur Weathers
Alfred Cole KO 3 Jerry Dorsey
Craig Bodzianowski KO 2 Bruce Johnson
Richard Mason KO 1 Robert Jackson
Young Joe Louis W 10 Danny Blake
Apollo Sweet KO 7 Vivian Schwalger

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

Jeff Harding KO 11 Nestor Giovannini
(Retains WBC Title)
Andrew Maynard W 12 Mike Sedillo
Bobby Czyz W 10 Uriah Grant
Joe Lasisi W 8 Keith McMurray
Ronnie Essett KO 1 Phil Lewis
James Kinchen W 10 Jorge Amparo
Art Jimmerson W 10 Randy Smith
Anthony Hembrick KO 8 Martin Armarillas

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Christophe Tiozzo KO 6 In Chul Baek
(Wins WBA Title)
Mauro Galvano W 12 Mark Kaylor
Adam Garland KO 4 Wesley Reid
Knox Brown W 10 James Mitchell

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Michael Nunn W 12 Marlon Starling
(Retains IBF Title)
Mike McCallum KO 11 Michael Watson
(Retains WBA Title)
Chris Eubank KO 8 Hugo Corti
Wilfred Benitez KO 7 Ariel Conde
Roy Jones KO 3 Knox Brown
Kevin Watts W 10 John Scully
Merqui Sosa KO 10 Jorge Martinez
Anthony Logan W 12 Ed Neblett
Wayne Powell KO 3 Jose Duarte
Jeff Lanas KO 4 Carlos Betancourt
Willie Monroe KO 6 Ricky Stackhouse

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Gianfranco Rosi KO 7 Kevin Daigle
(Retains IBF Title)
Terry Norris KO 1 John Mugabi
(Wins WBC Title)
Darrin Van Horn KO 1 Emile Cortina
Art Serwano KO 6 Robert Carson
Quincy Taylor W 10 Tomas Perez

WELTERWEIGHTS

Simon Brown KO 10 Tyrone Trice
(Retains IBF Title)
Buddy McGirt KO 2 Tommy Ayers
Genaro Leon KO 7 Tyrone Moore
Darrin Morris KO 4 Reyes Cruz
Jorge Maysonet KO 2 Darren Dyer
Victor Davis KO 9 Vincent Pettway
Crisanto Espana KO 1 Jorge Hernandez
Kirkland Laing KO 6 Trevor Smith
Anthony Williams KO 7 Gene Hatcher
Javier Moreno W 10 Hedgemon Robertson
Yong Bae Cho W 12 Robert Azumah Terashima
Termite Watkins KO 2 Robert Dickson
Wilf Gentzen W 12 Jeff Malcolm
Robert Wangila KO 3 Ramon Felix

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHTS

Julio Cesar Chavez KO 12 Meldrick Taylor
(Wins IBF Title, Retains WBC Title)
Juan Coggi W 12 Jose Luis Ramirez
(Retains WBA Title)
Roger Mayweather W 12 Delmar Paisan
Angel Hernandez W 10 Al Hamza
Courtney Hooper W 10 John Rafuse
Tony Baltazar KO 5 Danny Vargas
Harold Brazier KO 7 Sammy Wilson
Martin Quiroz KO 7 Eric Hernandez
Pat Leglise W 10 Johnny Fooks
Donald Caples KO 1 Victor Padilla
Victorio Belcher KO 8 Tony Ekubia
Mun Sil Chi W 12 Bisenti Santos
Charles Murray KO 1 Clarence Coleman
Romallis Ellis KO 3 Jorge Rivera
Todd Foster KO 1 Sammy Ruiz

LIGHTWEIGHTS

Juan Nazario KO 8 Edwin Rosario
(Wins WBA Title)
Pedro Sanchez KO 8 Tunde Foster
Primo Ramos D 8 Pedro Gutierrez
Shane Knox KO 5 Paul Pinto
Darryl Tyson W 10 Delmar Paisan
Sharmba Mitchell W 10 Billy Young
Christian Merle W 10 Jean-Baptiste Mendy
Rowdy Welch KO 3 Mike Zena
Kelcie Banks KO 4 Adolfo Aldana

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHTS

Brian Mitchell W 12 Jackie Beard
(Retains WBA Title)
Tony Lopez KO 2 Sylvester Kennon
Joey Gamache W 12 Nelson Rodriguez
Frankie Mitchell KO 7 Kent Hardee
Jeff Franklin KO 7 Gabe Ruelas
Gino Gelormino W 10 Luis Andino
Manuel Medina KO 8 Ben Lopez
Fransie Badenhorst KO 3 Lucky Shezi
Renato Cornett KO 5 Craig Pevy

FEATHERWEIGHTS

Jorge Paez W 12 Louie Espinoza
(Retains IBF Title)
Troy Dorsey KO 8 Bernardo Pinango
Paul Hodkinson KO 3 Eduardo Montoya
Ricardo Cepeda W 12 Roberto Rivera
Julian Solis KO 2 Mike Cruz

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHTS

Jesse Benavides W 10 Jesus Salud
(Non-Title Bout)
Joe Orewa W 10 Juan Jose Estrada
Noree Jockygym KO 5 Yongman Chun
Rafael Morfin KO 6 Tommy Valdez
Rafael Morfin W 10 Jerome Coffee
Jorge Garcia W 12 Edel Geronimo

BANTAMWEIGHTS

Greg Richardson W 10 Elly Pical
Vincenzo Belcastro W 12 Ronnie Carroll
Wilfredo Vasquez KO 1 Patrick Kamy
Edgar Monserrat KO 6 Alain Limarola
Shunichi Nakajima KO 6 Phantom Ozawa

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHTS

Khaosai Galaxy KO 5 Cobra Ari Blanca
(Retains WBA Title)
Thanomsak Sithbaobey KO 2 Nak Chun Choi
Thanomsak Sithbaobey KO 7 Cho Woon Park
Kid Akeem KO 7 Cesar Martinez
Armando Castro KO 4 Javier Leon

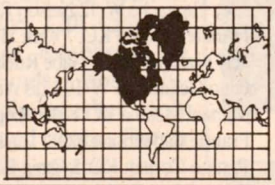
FLYWEIGHTS

Dave McAuley W 12 Louis Curtis
(Retains IBF Title)
Romy Navarette W 12 Kyung Jae Chang
Elvis Alvarez KO 6 Gerardo Manjarrez
Ysaias Zamudio W 12 Javier Diaz

LIGHT FLYWEIGHTS

Humberto Gonzalez KO 3 Francisco Tejedor
(Retains WBC Title)
Michael Carbajal W 10 Raul Acosta

The RING AROUND THE WORLD



NORTH AMERICA

UNITED STATES

COLORADO

DENVER—In a matchup of lightweights, **Jorge Romero**, Denver, 3-0, knocked down **Jason Harrisson**, Oklahoma, three times en route to a third-round TKO in a scheduled 12.

John Welters, Thorton, 154, knocked out Danny Vires, 152, Oklahoma City, in the fifth round of a scheduled 12.

Tony Biglen, Denver, 147, scored a seventh-round TKO over Bobby Brown, Oklahoma City, 148.

Promoter: Vern Stevenson
Referees: Felipe Garcia, Ray Schoewinger
Timekeeper: Edith Duran
Ring Announcer: Vern Stevenson
Attendance: 450 (estimated)
(3-3-90)

Ed Walsh

FLORIDA

HOMESTEAD—South Dade Flea Market—Local corner **Angel Sanchez** pounded stubborn veteran **Felipe Julio**, 140, Miami Beach, over eight action-filled rounds before stopping him at 2:35 of the eighth of a scheduled 12-rounder. With the win, the 22-year-old Sanchez captured the vacant Latin American Boxing Federation junior welterweight title.

Sanchez, 140, 11-0, started very quickly, snapping jabs in Julio's face and following up with quick right hands to the head. Sanchez used his jab more frequently with good effect in the second frame. He stunned Julio, 32-9-1, near the end of the round with a right uppercut-left hand combination. From that round on, the partisan crowd was on its feet and screaming, "Angel, Angel."

An overhand right buckled Julio's knees in the fourth, and Sanchez tore into him with an all-out effort to drop his 33-year-old foe. Julio fired back, but Sanchez continued to unleash a withering barrage of leather on Julio's head. Sanchez won the next two rounds in the same manner, although Julio got his attention in the sixth with a clean left hook-right hand combination.

In the eighth, a right-left combo put Julio on the seat of his pants against the ropes. Following the instructions of his cornermen, Julio stayed down to get as much rest as possible. He beat the count, but referee Soto stopped the fight. Julio's handlers objected, but it was a good call.

Sanchez said he was not frustrated by his inability to take out Julio earlier, although he admitted that "after a couple of rounds, I was trying to take him out. But I was having to stop and catch my breath, so I went back to boxing him.

"My corner told me to hit the body, and I did, but it was so easy to hit his head that I went for that."

In a spirited six-rounder, Rafael Rodriguez, 161, Homestead, scored a unanimous points win over fellow townsman Vincent Willoughby, 162.

Rodriguez is a decent banger who likes to clown around. But he was busy enough to win by scores of 58-57, 59-56, and 59-55.

In a sloppy, pathetic fight, Dean Baldwin, 137½, Dade City, won when referee Armando Garcia correctly disqualifed Manuel Silva, 139½, Homestead, in the third round for repeatedly using dirty tactics. Silva's corner contested the stoppage, and why not; in Florida, a loser by disqualification forfeits his purse.

The walkout was a lopsided but entertaining affair which saw Abel Wargas, 135, Leisure City, win a four-round unanimous decision over Javier Padilla, 138, Homestead. Vargas improved to 8-2; Padilla is 1-1.

Promoter: America's Boxing Gym, Inc.
Referees: Armando Garcia, Bernie Soto
Judges: Rick Bays, Mark Streisand, Al Wilensky, Mary Mosca
Timekeeper: Roy Carlson
Attendance: 250 (estimated)
(2-9-90)

TAMPA—Hyatt Regency—Former Olympian **Kenny Gould** put on an impressive display of boxing and mental toughness against hard-hitting **Jorge Maysonet** to win a 10-round unanimous decision in what was Gould's toughest test to date.

It was a classic matchup between the bomber (all 21 of Maysonet's wins had come by way of knockout) vs. the boxer, Gould, 12-0 (7).

Gould, 146, Rockford, Illinois, dictated the terms of the fight through the first five rounds with a snapping right jab and superior movement and handspeed. The best the 26-year-old Maysonet, 148½, Corona, New York, could do was land a handful of isolated right hands.

Gould was in control until midway through the sixth round, when Maysonet got him into serious trouble with a series of straight rights. Gould weathered the storm, but he was bleeding from the nose and was cut over the right eye. He recovered and finally began throwing uppercuts to take advantage of Maysonet's habit of bending at the waist.

In the end, Maysonet was reduced to looking for the single shot that might end it; he never found it. Gould was superior in every facet, and the scoring (99-91, 99-92, and 98-92) reflected it.

On-again, off-again Juan LaPorte, 130, Brooklyn, New York, was on tonight as he registered a split decision over Rogelio Lopez, 129½, Dallas, and successfully defended the NABF super featherweight crown. LaPorte, 40-9 (19), won the title with a 12th-round TKO of Nicky Perez in October 1988.

LaPorte came out landing his jab, and followed up with stiff rights that found Lopez' head with regularity. The third round was very close, but LaPorte hurt Lopez in the fourth with hard right hands and uppercuts. A four-punch combination buckled Lopez' legs, but he remained upright. LaPorte continued to dominate through the fifth frame with hard counter right hands, but he visibly slowed in the sixth and Lopez, 17-10-3, was able to land some punches. LaPorte's jab became almost nonexistent, allowing Lopez to get inside and fight strongly through the eighth round.

LaPorte got his second wind in the ninth and pounded Lopez, but the Texan would not fold. LaPorte maintained the edge through the rest of the fight as he landed more meaningful punches. The scores were 116-111 and 115-113 for LaPorte, and 114-113 for Lopez.

The co-main events were the only bouts to go the distance, as none of the other four fights made it past the second round.

Heavyweight Tom Sandner, 214, Ocala, 8-0 (8), blasted out Rufus Tate, 233, Osceola, Arkansas, at 1:39 of the first.

Gerald Coleman, 153½, Tampa, 3-0, stopped D. Ryan Setzer, 151, Miami, 2-4, with one minute left in the second.

Ben Klingenstein, 146½, Homosassa Springs, scored a TKO of debuting Kenneth Jones, 145¼, Orlando, 4-0, at 2:51 of the first.

Michael Harris, 197½, St. Petersburg, 2-0, TKO'd debuting Stephen Powell, 180, Pompano Beach, at 32 seconds of the first.

Promoter: Alessi Promotions, Inc.
Referees: Brian Garry, Mike Boggs
Judges: Frank Skilbred, Barry Yeats, Al Lombardi Jr., Jim Aylesworth
Timekeeper: Mark Skilbred
Television: USA Network
Attendance: 1,000 (estimated)
(2-15-90)

MIAMI—Jai Alai Fronton—**Angel Hernandez**, 140, improved to 33-0-2, outpointing **Jamie "Rocky" Balboa**, 140, over 10 relatively uneventful rounds.

The most that could be said about this one is that Hernandez, who was never threatened, but was not in top form, got a good workout. Too much so for his trainer, QuiQue Carrion.

"I didn't want this fight to go the distance," said Carrion, "We had a lot of inconvenience for this fight," he added as a cut over Hernandez' right eye was being stitched shut. "Angel sprained his left ankle and couldn't do roadwork, he hurt his hand, and he had the flu. He's still coughing." All this before he even stepped in the ring against the very experienced Balboa, 48-8, whose last fight was a fifth-round TKO loss to former IBF junior welterweight champion Meldrick Taylor in November.

Hernandez wasted little time getting his excellent jab popping in Balboa's face in the first round. By the third round, Hernandez was alternating between the southpaw and orthodox stances and dropping his hands, which allowed Balboa to land a few shots.

By the end of the fifth, things had settled into a predictable pattern, as Hernandez was handily outclassing his opponent. Suddenly in the sixth, a counter left hook stunned Balboa and sent him into the ropes; he dropped to the canvas, but it was ruled a slip. Hernandez pounced on the still-shaken Balboa and put him down for real with a left hook to the head. Balboa beat the count, but Hernandez showered him with combinations, punctuated by zinging left hooks.

The remaining four rounds saw Balboa continue to ineffectively pursue Hernandez, who scored heavily in combinations to the body and head. The scores were 99-90, 98-91, and 97-92, all for Hernandez.

The co-main event was a good 10-round battle waged by Angel Cruz, 126, Miami Beach, and Jorge Diaz, 127, Mexico. When the smoke cleared, Cruz was declared a unanimous winner by scores of 96-93, 96-94, and 95-94. Cruz improved to 19-1; Diaz fell to 32-7 (30).

Welterweight Anthony Martinez, 149, Miami, outpointed Luis Correa, 147, Hialeah, in a tremendously entertaining six-round war. The scoring was lopsided in favor of Martinez: 59-53, 57-54, and 57-53.

In a scheduled six-rounder, Melton Bowen, 215, Carol City, 16-1 (14), steamrolled Barry Forbes, 270, Miami, at 2:09 of the second. Forbes dropped to 8-3-1.

Philip Jackson, 194, Miami, stopped journeyman Jesse Shelby, 193, Fort Worth, Texas, at 43 seconds of the fifth. Jackson is 9-0; Shelby, 20-8-1.

Freddie Sanchez, 164, Puerto Rico, outclassed and overwhelmed Raul Hernandez, 163, Miami Beach, and stopped him at 2:38 of the fifth. Sanchez is 6-0; Hernandez, who took a frightful beating, is 28-21-2.

Jack Brunson Jr., 164, Miami, was suspended indefinitely by the state commission after his pitiful showing against Osvaldo Castro, 165, Miami. Brunson was kayoed at 26 seconds of the first round. He was subsequently suspended for "questionable ability." He should have been suspended for questionable heart.

When the bout was announced as a six-rounder, Brunson told his handlers, "I ain't fightin' six rounds." He was right. He waited until Castro, 4-0, threw his first meaningful punch (a left hook) and then dove face-first to the canvas. Brunson's disgraceful exhibition dropped him to 1-3.

Promoter: Julio Martinez Promotions, Inc.
Referees: Juan Arias, Bill Connors
Judges: Rick Bays, Stu Winston, Al Wilensky, Mary Mosca
Timekeeper: Sam Guralnick
Television: Univision
Attendance: 900 (estimated)
(2-16-90)

BOCA RATON—St. Andrews Club—A pair of lightweights topped this six-bout card, but the night belonged to a 39-year-old heavyweight with a big right hand and a bigger heart. **Dr. Harold "Hackie" Reitman**, 3-0, Plantation, took on **Vale Payton**, 203, in a match that drew the crowd (including some of the doc's friends from New Jersey, who wore "Hack's Pack" t-shirts) to this posh setting at $65 a head for dinner and boxing. Reitman was to have faced Miami's Isaac Poole. But the state commission would not approve Poole, and the 28-year-old Payton, making his professional debut, stepped in.

Payton had a limited amateur career (a record of 5-2) which was cut short by a broken leg suffered during a Golden Gloves tournament in 1986 and kept him out of action for about three years. Payton began training again about a month ago, but did not get serious until two weeks prior to this fight.

When the bell sounded, Payton 203, swarmed all over the good doctor and threw punches from all angles. It wasn't pretty, but it was effective. Reitman, 213, blocked most of Payton's left hooks, but the youngster bullied him into the ropes and popped him with straight rights and shots to the body. But Hackie backed Payton against the ropes with four consecutive rights and dropped him with two more rights to the head. Payton beat the count and the doc was all over him, but Payton survived the round.

Between rounds, Reitman was having trouble catching his breath. The first 20 seconds of the second frame were furiously contested, with Payton winging left hooks and Reitman firing away with rights. But Payton's pressuring tactics paid off and Reitman fell to his back from exhaustion. Reitman rose to his feet and was prepared to continue, but his cornerman, Tommy Torino, jumped into the ring and referee Juan Arias stopped it at the 2:50 mark.

The doc's purse was donated to charity, as has been the case with all of his previous fight earnings; this one went to the Love Fund for widows and children of law enforcement officers killed in the line of duty.

Payton was surprised the fight was stopped. "I thought the doc had something left," he said. "I was in control, but the doc could have caught me at any time because I was getting tired, too."

Hackie, who was always gracious in victory, was even more so in defeat. "I really felt proud of the other guy," he said. "He kept coming and coming and coming . . . That guy fought with all his heart; he deserved to win."

But upon further reflection, both men tempered their comments to indicate a more cautious, and hopeful, attitude. "Hackie wants to fight again, but the decision is up to me," Torino said. "We'll continue to work. I've told Hackie, 'Show me you can compete, and I'll let you fight.' "

In the main event, John Fonte, 138, Ft. Lauderdale, took an eight-round unanimous decision over Emilio Sotomayor, 143, Miami, in a rematch. But it wasn't as easy as the 80-72, 80-73, and 79-76 scores indicated. Sotomayor improved to 19-7-1; Fonte fell to 10-1-1.

Albert Zuluaga, 127, Miami, won a six-round majority decision over Mike McClendon, 127, Miami. Zuluaga is 9-0; McClendon, 3-4-1.

Johnnie McClendon, 164, Miami, had better luck, as he wobbled Frank Vasquez, 163, Miami, with a left hook and floored him with a right to score a knockout at 52 seconds of the first; scheduled for six. McClendon improved to 5-3-1, while Vasquez fell to 5-4.

David Butler, 186, Miami, took a four-round unanimous decision over Phil Lewis, 174, Ft. Lauderdale. Butler is 2-2; Lewis, 6-7-1.

Fred Savilla, 132½, Miami Beach, survived a flash knockdown in the first round and stopped Miguel Pino, 133½, Miami, who quit on his stool after the second round. Savilla improved to 14-1; Pino is 3-3.

Promoter: Tiburon Promotions, Inc.
Referees: Juan Arias, Bill Connors
Judges: Mary Mosca, Irv Abramson, Rick Bays, Fran Body, Mark Conn
Timekeeper: Roy Carlson
Attendance: 150 (estimated)
(2-24-90)

PENSACOLA—Interstate Fairgrounds—**Roy Jones Jr.** keeps flattening everyone in his path. His unfortunate victim in this scheduled eight-rounder was **Billy Mitchem Jr.**

Jones, 156½, Pensacola, wasted no time digging stiff hooks into Mitchem's midsection. Jones pummelled Mitchem throughout the opening canto, but the 150-pounder from Inman, South Carolina, wasn't ready to leave the ring.

Jones, 6-0 (6), twice sent his foe to the canvas with hard body shots before decking Mitchem, 10-11-1, for a third and—by Florida rules—final time with three seconds left the second round.

The closest any loser got to leaving his fate in the hands of the judges was Robert Woods, 131, Shelby, North Carolina, who lasted until 52 seconds of the sixth and final round before succumbing to the attack of Billy Thomas Jr., 135, Pensacola.

Lamar Parks, 162, a fine-looking prospect, Gainesville, South Carolina, who trains at the gym of Roy Jones Sr. in Pensacola, improved to 9-0 with a first- round stoppage of Tony Wellington, 157¾, Shelby, North Carolina, 3-2.

Pensacola's Daron Dale, 144, stopped Michael Strong, 142, Shelby, North Carolina, at 1:15 of the second of a scheduled six-rounder. Dale is 5-4-1, while Strong dropped to 3-3.

Arthur Williams, 197½, Pensacola, gave debuting Paul Jones a shellacking and took him out at 42 seconds of round two; scheduled for four. Williams is 2-0.

Following the main event, Billy Lewis, 169, Pensacola, knocked out Ervin Reid, 163, Kenner, Alabama, at 1:53 of the first. It was scheduled for four. Lewis improved to 4-0; Reid dropped to 2-5.

Promoter: Square Ring, Inc.
Referees: Max Parker, Jr., Tom Kimmons
Judges, Johnny Walker, Frank Barberi, Thomas Vincent
Timekeeper: Dick Howroyd
Attendance: 1,000 (estimated)
(2-28-90)

Ken Knox

HAWAII

HONOLULU—Blaisdell Arena—**Paquito Openo**, a hard-punching Filipino, successfully retained the WBC International junior featherweight title when he battered **Mark Brooks**, California, until the referee intervened in the fourth round of a scheduled 12. The loser, who had been fighting in Japan as Mark Horikoshi, left Nippon after losing the national junior featherweight title on a ninth-round kayo by Naoto Takahashi in January 1989. It was Openo's first defense of the title.

WBA junior featherweight champion Jesus Salud won a unanimous decision over Filipino Boy Granciosa in a 10-round, non-title bout.

Promoter: Chariot Promotions
(2-2-90)

Joe Koizumi and Joaquin Henson

ILLINOIS

CHICAGO—International Amphitheatre—Former WBC super lightweight champion **Lonnie Smith** earned a unanimous 10-round decision over **Juan "The Pitbull" Sobernanes**. Smith, 137, owned the first four rounds, using lateral movement and a pumping jab to keep his foe off-balance and on the outside. Smith's dominance was punctuated by a left hook to Sobernanes' jaw that produced a flash knockdown. The Pitbull fought back through the next four rounds. Sobernanes scored well in the middle stanzas, cutting off the ring and landing heavy body shots.

In the ninth, a strong right hook from Sobernanes caught Smith off guard and sent him reeling against the ropes. The blow became a wakeup call for Smith, as he fought back with renewed vigor. A solid one-two combination opened a cut along Soberanes' right eye. From then on, Smith regained control of the fight. Both fighters preformed well, but the decision belonged to Smith, 25-2-1; Sobernanes dropped to 24-3.

In the co-main feature, WBA Intercontinental junior lightweight champion Manuel Medina, 128, stopped challenger Rafael Ortega, 129, at 2:25 of the eighth round. Two uppercuts floored the challenger for an eight-count in the last round. But Ortega rose on shaky legs, and referee Tim Adams stopped the bout. The 19-year old from Tijuana is 34-3 (20).

Light heavyweight prospect Tony LaRosa, 11-1,

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KO

TKO'd Ben Judah, a late substitute, in the fifth round. While tying up LaRosa, Judah complained out loud about the fight's pace. Referee Brian O'Shea thought the complaint was Judah's way of yelling "Uncle!" and waved the bout over. There was confusion, as Judah protested the stoppage. Ringsiders remained in the dark until O'Shea was heard telling one judge, "The guy quit." The official decision was recorded as a TKO at 2:40 of round five.

Kelvin Williams, 6-4, won a tough four-rounder against Henry "Goodtime" Mobley.

Promoter: Sam Frontera
Referees: Tim Adams, Stan Berg, Brian O'Shea
Judges: Gino Rodriguez, Mike Giliena, Jerry Hults, Jerry Jakubco
Supervisor: Nick Kerasiotis
Matchmakers: Jack Cowen, Tony Curtis
(2-26-90)

John Siuntres

MASSACHUSETTS

LOWELL—Lowell Auditorium—**Bash Ali**, 37-9-1, bludgeoned his way to a 12-round unanimous decision over **Patrick Lumumba**, 9-4, to win the vacant WBC-International cruiserweight title in an areana that was two-thirds empty.

It wasn't long before conditioning became a crucial factor, and at times it seemed like referee Joe Cortez was the only man in the ring prepared to go the distance. Ali, 188, may not have been in much better shape than Lumumba, 187, but at least he was more persistent. It was a see-saw affair for the first five rounds, with Lumumba's left jab and defense winning a frame here, and then Ali's sloppy, but constant, offense winning a frame there. Lumumba would often begin a round in control, then slow down and tire, which would allow Ali to walk through his jab and punish him over the last minute.

After the sixth round, Ali was more effective, as Lumumba's jab had lost all snap.

The two fighter's exchanged haymakers in the sixth, but Ali took control in rounds seven through nine.

Lumumba stole the 10th simply because Ali was on vacation. Lumumba revived for the 11th and showed some signs of mounting an offense again, but Ali's clubbing rushes soon wore him down. A specially furious Ali flurry left Lumumba wobbly, as once again the bell sounded just in time to save him. Ali tried to press in the final round, but after being thumbed in the opening moments, he had trouble finding Lumumba, who was not very effective but at least busy.

Cortez scored the bout 116-113 for Ali, while the husband and wife judging team of Tony and Carol Castellano both saw it 115-113. *The Ring* scored 117-113 for Ali.

The fight with the most local interest ended in controversy, as New England featherweight champion Mike Cappiello, 125, West Bridgewater, defended the crown with a 10-round split verdict over hometown favorite Manuel "Cold Sweat" Santiago, 125.

Judge Bob Costello saw it 96-95 Santiago, while judge Vincent Lee and referee Gerry Leone had it 99-97 and 99-94, respectively, for Cappiello. *The Ring* had it a 96-96. Cappiello improved to 12-1 (5), while Santiago's purported mark dropped to 8-3, with all of his defeats to Cappiello.

The only other New England title fight saw one of the region's best welterweights take the crown in a one-sided bout. Brian Powers, 147, Holbrook, thoroughly dominated Bridgeport's Jose "Kid Cuba" Vera, 147, in winning a six-rounder last October. Two previously announced opponents dropped out against Powers, 9-0-1 (3), so Vera came in as a late sub.

Vera came out fast and wild, but Powers calmly took him apart with inside counterpunches and dropped him for a four-count late in the opening round.

Powers pursued Vera through the second round, and was teeing off on his staggering foe when referee Leone intervened and gave Kid Cuba a standing-eight count. Vera looked shaky, and Leone called it off with 29 seconds left in round two.

Drake Thadzi, 182, Brockton, took target practice on Bridgeport's Ruben Cardona, 182, until referee Doug Sherrin halted matters in round five. Thadzi goes to 15-3-1, while Cardona dropped to 7-22.

The best preliminary saw two local kids slug it out in a brutal four-rounder. Bobby Christakos, 158, Lowell, won a unanimous decision over Antonio Rivera, 160, Lowell. Christakos moved to 2-1, while one stat sheet had Rivera at 2-43, although we were assured he'd never been off his feet.

Promoter: Doug Pendaris
Physician: Dr. Jorge Tello
Timekeeper: Jim Froio
Attendance: 883
Gross: $17,000 (estimated)
TV: Continental Cable, Warner Cable
Ring Announcers: Jake LaMotta, Steve Valley, Robbie Sims
(2-23-90)

Jay N. Miller

MICHIGAN

AUBURN HILLS—The Palace—The main event saw **Jemal Hinton**, 120, Detroit, 13-0, keep his record perfect and the WBC belt around his waist with a TKO at 36 seconds of the seventh round. **Freddy Hernandez**, 121¾, Mexicali, Mexico, 11-4, gave up after being beaten on for the previous six brave, if not hurtful, stanzas.

In a co-feature, veteran warrior Philip Morefield, 157, Warren, 18-5-1, took on undefeated Ann Arbor native James Toney, 160, 16-0, for the Michigan middleweight championship. Toney came out firing and hammered Morefield, who went down twice before he quit at 1:40 of the opening round.

One of the rare highlights of this card was the performance of Kronkster Oba Carr, 139½, who used a left hook-right cross combination to improve to 3-0 with a win over hapless Rudy Fuentes, 143¾, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Fuentes, 14-8-1, was down four times in less than five minutes, as Carr did a fistic tango to garner the TKO at 1:47 of the second stanza.

Roger Turner, 150, Lansing, stopped Joe Walker, 150, Akron, Ohio, in the sixth round. Turner improved to 14-0; Walker fell to 14-7-1.

Lanky Todd Riggs, 147, Monroe, 1-0-1, TKO'd Alex Wright, Lansing, 0-3, in the second stanza.

In a bout that stayed true to the night's form, Roderick Moore, 140, Detroit, 1-0, who had drifted away from boxing some five year ago, scored a TKO when southpaw Tony Elgas, 143, Bay City, 3-2, couldn't answer the bell after the third round.

In a four-round junior welterweight bout, Warren Kilgore, 139, 1-1, lost a unanimous decision to Terry Ford, 140, Madison, Wisconsin. Ford, 3-1, surprised the crowd, coaches, ringsiders, and especially Kilgore when he dropped the popular Kilgore in the first and twice in the second round of their four-rounder.

Matchmaker: Tommy Vaca
Promoter: Ringside Productions
Sponsors: Budweiser/USA Cable Network
Commission: Dr. Stuart Kirschenbaum, Jim Burch, John Jackson, Jim Cullen, Dolph Ploeh
Physicians: Dr. Jules Reinhardt, Dr. Michael Sherbin
Referees: Bobby Watson, Sam Williams, Dale Grable
Timekeepers: Ken Pace, William Hunter Jr.
Judges: Rich Fisher, H. McKalapin, J. Parish
(3-1-90)

Thomas F. Paruszkiewicz

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS—Clarion Hotel—**Maurice Blocker**, 32-1, sharpened his skills as he awaits a mandatory shot at WBC welterweight champion Marion Starling by recording a solid unanimous decision over former 140-pound champion **Saoul Mamby**, 42-13-6.

In the headliner of a nine-bout card, Blocker, 147¼, Washington, D.C., had little trouble with the 42-year-old Mamby, 149¼, New York City, who has been knocked down only once during his 21-year pro career.

"That Mamby's a very smart fighter," Blocker said. "I enjoyed the fight very much, getting the chance to go against an experienced fighter. He's the most experienced fighter I've fought since [Lloyd] Honeyghan.

"I learned a lot from this bout. I knew I'd have to use my jab a lot. I didn't really know what to expect from him. Mamby is a very good boxer."

Blocker's plan was to jab and use his youth and speed advantages. It worked. Mamby did well in the first two rounds, but Blocker steadily came on after that. His left jab proved especially effective.

The judges scored 100-91, 100-90, and 100-87, all for Blocker; *The Ring* scored for Blocker, 97-94.

Lavell Finger and his twin brother Terrell, billed as "Double Trouble," raised their respective records to 5-0 with easy victories. Lavell, 149¼, scored a TKO at 2:59 of the first round over Bruce Billings, 150, Mandeville, Louisiana, in a six-round welterweight bout, while Terrell, 143, chalked up a TKO at 1:49 of the second round over Clarence Chamblis, 143, New Orleans.

William Guthrie, 172, St. Louis, 5-0, kayod Randy Thomas, 166¼, Hilton Head, South Carolina, at 2:10 of the first round.

Ray Latham, 167½, St. Louis, who turned pro and left his number-one world amateur ranking behind, didn't find the transition very difficult, scoring a first-round kayo over Jeffrey Summers, 171¼, Knoxville, Tennessee.

Art Jimmerson, 177½, St. Louis, 13-4, scored a first-round TKO over William Knorr, 173½, New Orleans.

In a six-round heavyweight bout, Craig Peterson, 206, Brisbane, Australia, 15-1, won an easy unanimous decision over Andrew Stokes, 226, Lafayette, Indiana.

Sammy Speach, 226, Philadelphia, 6-0, scored a unanimous decision over Lionel Butler, 230, Bogalusa, Louisiana, in a six-round heavyweight contest.

Glen "The Promise" Thomas, 161, Wilmington, Delaware, 18-0, won a unanimous decision over Ricky Stephens, 163, Bogalusa, Louisiana, in a six-round middleweight bout.

Promoter: Butch Lewis Productions
Television: Black Entertainment Television (BET)
Attendance: 1,050
(2-16-90)

Brent Williams

MONTANA

BUTTE—Yakima heavyweight hopeful **Joe Hipp**, 234, knocked out Denver's **Danny Ross**, 200, at 2:09 of the opening frame of a scheduled eight.

Mike Grow, 139, Lewiston, Idaho, returned to action after a long layoff with a fifth-round TKO over Gordy Hannah, 142, Calgary.

Local featherweight Matt LeCoure, 126, 5-0-1, gave the hometown fans a lift with a spirited six-round unanimous points victory over Reggie Johnson, 129, Calgary.

Al Harper, 159, Surray, British Columbia, spoiled the pro debut of Bob Gonyea, 167, Butte, taking a unanimous nod over six.

Promoter: Stallion Promotions
Referees: Mick O'Brien, Kevin McCarl
Timekeepers: John Gillespie, Ed McCarthy
(2-12-90)

Ed Walsh

NEVADA

LAS VEGAS—Hacienda Hotel and Casino—**Ray Mercer**, 213, Short Hills, New Jersey, won the vacant IBF Intercontinental heavyweight crown with a unanimous 12-round decision over **Kimmuel Odum**, 243, Gary, Indiana. Mercer won despite straining a muscle in his right shoulder, which limited the use of his potent right hand.

The injury took place sometime during the third round.

"I knew exactly when it happened," said Mercer. "After that, I really had to depend on my jab. I knew I couldn't try for a kayo with [my shoulder] hurting like it was. There was a lot of pain, but I tried not to think about it. [It] was really hurting. I tried to keep it from getting hurt worse, or I might not have been able to continue."

Odum almost fell from a Mercer right in the 10th, but the pain in the Olympian's bum shoulder was too much for him to launch a finishing salvo.

The same situation existed in the 11th round. Mercer gambled a solid right, dropping Odum to one knee along the ropes, but he was up before referee Richard Steele could envoke a count.

Mercer stunned Odum twice in the 12th round, but again, the shoulder pain prevented him from finishing him off.

Charles "The Natural" Murray, 139, Short Hills, TKO'd Arturo Lozano, 130, Los Angeles, 46 seconds into the third round. Murray improved to 12-0 (7); Lozano fell to 7-4 (3).

Kelcie Banks, 135, Las Vegas, TKO'd Ramon Ochoa, 137, Los Angeles, at 1:04 of the third. Banks is 8-1 (6); Ochoa is 7-6-2 (7).

Richard Abila, 130, Las Vegas, improved to 14-4 (7) with a unanimous six-round decision over Jorge Rodriguez, 132, Los Angeles, 15-19-3 (7).

Frankie Avelar, 128, Las Vegas, scored a TKO at 2:10 of the first round over Alfredo Garcia. Avelar is 6-1 (2); Garcia is 2-1.

Eddie Cook, 117, St. Louis, made an impressive pro debut by stopping Lino Linares, 118, Los Angeles, at 2:10 of the first round.

James Hannum, 211, Las Vegas, and Said Ajoub, 227, Las Vegas, mauled each other for a four-round draw. Hannum is 2-1-1 (1); Ajoub is 2-2-1 (1).

Attendance: 2,155
(3-2-90)

Jack Welsh

NEW JERSEY

ATLANTIC CITY—Resorts International—The biggest winner wasn't even in the building when **Santos Cardona**, 140, New York City, upset NABF super lightweight champion **Ras-I Bramble**, 138, Passaic, by a majority 12-round verdict. And that had to be Terrence Alli, who an easy time with his win over Cardona so recently that the crowd echo had barely time to die down. The unknown Cardona, having kept to a two-fight-a-year maximum through most of his career, can't be relied upon to parlay the victory.

Ras-I looked terrible, as he simply parked himself in front of Cardona and allowed the long-armed Puerto Rican to fire away. It almost looked like target practice for Cardona, who took full advantage of the immoble Bramble, connecting with just about everything he threw. He almost put Bramble away in the fifth with a sneak right.

The wear and tear seems to have taken away Bramble's most valuable asset: the ability to offer up his head, then snatch it away in the nick of time to score with a counter.

"I tried to counterpunch too much," he explained weakly. The contest became a slugging match, which is not Bramble's game.

Cardona was shocked when he heared judge Tony Castellano's dreadful score of 114-114.

"When I heard the first score, I said, 'Oh, my God, don't take this away from me.' I knew I won the fight, but you never know what will happen in boxing," Santos said. "Fortunately, God was in heaven, and New Jersey isn't one of these venues where the cards appear to be filled out in advance." Rocky Castellani voted 118-109, and Eugene Grant had it 116-111 for Cardona. Steve Smoger refereed.

The judges seemed to let expectation color their objectivity in awarding an unpopular and unjust unanimous 10-round decision to unbeaten hotshot Tracy Spann, 136, Plainfield, in his bout with journeyman Ildemar Paisan, 135, Caracas, Venezuela. The crowd felt Paisan had won, but the judges disagreed. Castellani had it 96-94, Lynne Carter, 96-95, and Grant an unbelievable 98-92. A backalley chorus of boos accompanied the decision. The shocked winner could barely manage a word of explanation. Referee: Rafael Ramos.

The judges warmed up for one bad decision with another, as a returning Jerry Smith, 154, Vineland, was lucky to get a majority draw with Pat Cavanaugh, 155, Troy, New York, in an unschooled and bloody four. Smith, who hadn't fought in about five years, looked as if he didn't remember what it was all about, while Cavanaughh at least exhibited purpose. Grant, who was having quite a night, scored 40-36 for Smith! Ramos refereed.

New Jersian Charles Murray, 141, made it easy for the judges against C.J. Duffy, 143, Ft. Worth, Texas, in a six-rounder. Still, it wasn't one of the stylish Murray's grander efforts, as the compact Duffy proved stubborn, and at times reduced him to streetfighting. Referee: Steve Smoger.

Two excellent Atlantic City prospects didn't wait for the judges in scheduled four-rounders. Bruce Seldon, 227, exploded a right, then a left hook, for two quick knockdowns to kayo Amos Lisboa, 217, San Juan, 45 seconds of the first. Referee: Smoger.

Classy Leavander Johnson, 134, TKO'd Edwin Diaz, 133, San Juan, at 2:37 of the third.

Promoter: Bob Arum (Top Rank Inc.)
Matchmakers: Teddy Brenner, Ron Katz
Timekeeper: Lindsey Tucker
Ring Announcer: Michael Buffer
TV: ESPN
Attendance: 1,000 (estimated)

(2-18-90) **J.R. Jowett**

NEW YORK

BINGHAMTON—Broome County Arena—The second in a series of promotions by Floyd Patterson and Frank Florio, and especially matchmaker Johnny Bos, proved a financial success. Though a good crowd was on hand, it was a bit off since expected local heavyweight Tim Igo fell out with an injured ankle.

Local attraction **Tracy Harris Patterson**, 122½, New Paltz, grabbed the vacant NABF super bantamweight title with a pleasing kayo of **George Garcia**, 122, Westminster, California, at 1:44 of the eighth round, scheduled for 12. The big news here was that Patterson is moving down in weight, as recent chin rattlings have rattled his corner. They're hoping he won't get hit as hard at the lower weight, though Garcia hardly provided a test of that. A sweet little boxer who put up a good fight, Garcia boxed in reverse with peppery jabs and counters that were enough to score points, but not set Patterson off track.

For his part, Patterson fought a disciplined and contained fight. He established his game quickly by rocking Garcia in a big first, then settled down and did it by the book. The visitor was gradually worn down with a controlled assault, until a snake's tongue of a right dropped him in the seventh. Patterson went to work efficiently in the next round, doubling the same shot to bring Garcia to his knees. The weary Californian tried to jump up in the nick of time, but fell short of referee Arthur Mercante Jr.'s count. Patterson is slowly coming into his own. But his father, who ought to know better, seems bound to make him another once-around-and-gone cheese champion.

The co-feature had Calvin Grove, 129, Coatesville, Pennsylvania, defending the USBA junior lightweight title against titleless Bernard Taylor, 129½, Knoxville, Tennessee, in a scheduled 12. Though it's been eight years since he fought the legendary featherweight champion Eusebio Pedroza to a controversial draw, Taylor looked anything but shot. Grove outboxed and outhit the counterpunching Taylor through the early rounds. But in the fifth, the course changed dramatically after Grove led off with a beautiful right that nearly dropped Taylor. Unable to finish him, Grove became frustrated, as the smart veteran glided to safety.

The action picked up over the last half of the fight, as Grove began to reach too far in his quest for a knockout and started to catch some shots. Able to outfight Taylor as well as outbox him, Grove still enjoyed a big lead after the 10th round. At that point, Bernie Friedkin had it even at 95-95, while Al Reid and Don Ackerman were on target with 97-92 and 97-95 scores, respectively.

In the 10th, Grove was caught leaning in awkwardly after a sloppy exchange. Taylor drilled him with a beautiful short, straight right that wobbled Grove, and followed it with a left hook that dropped him. Rising on shakey feet, Grove tried to run, but Taylor floored him with two crisp rights. This time the referee stepped in and stopped it at 1:56 of the 11th round. A stunned Grove protested bitterly, but to no avail.

James Salerno, 196½, New Paltz, heard boos as usual, but silenced them when he stopped an exhausted, ill-trained Andre Crowder, 199½, Lima, Ohio, on his feet at 2:56 of the eighth and final round. Referee, Mercante.

Fan favorite Frankie D'Orio, 142, Sumerville, Massachusetts, flew into a rage when he was cut in the first round against Jerry Massey 141½, Cincinnati, in a scheduled eight-rounder. D'Orio discarded what little defense he had as he waded in and exchanged bombs. The game Massey landed everything he had, but was crunched to the body for a standing eight during that opening round. D'Orio controlled the second and hurt Massey again in the third, resulting in another standing eight-count, and a stoppage at 1:34 of the round.

In a dreary encounter between lefties, Ernest Kennedy, 158½, Philadelphia, took a unanimous six-round decision over Joe Potts, 154½, Covington, Kentucky.

Attendance: 2,517
TV: USA Network
Judges: Doin Nodecker, Don Ackerman, Thomas Kaczmarek
Timekeeper: Bob Olson
Ring Announcer: Ron DelBuono

(2-8-90) **J.R. Jowett**

WHITE PLAINS—The Westchester County Center—Due to the cancellation of local favorite Larry Barnes, whose opponent flunked the physical, the card gave us fighters that nobody had ever heard of. What few fans there were were disappointed.

In the 10-round main event, **Vernon Phillips**, 150½, Troy, New York, sprang a mild upset when he won a unanimous decision over **Curtis Summit**, 149, Queens. Phillips, 9-3, utilized a steady body attack that wore Summit down. Summit dropped to 15-4-1 (8). Referee, Luis Rivera.

Richard Mason, 197, Cincinnati, for some reason ranked as the number seven cruiserweight by the IBF, upped to 14-2-1 (10) with an easy first- round TKO over David Slaughter, 225, Los Angeles. Slaughter is 9-7-1 (4). Referee, Fred Ucci.

In a scheduled four, Craig Mills, 151½, New Rochelle, scored a TKO over Antonio Rivera, 156½, Boston, at 2:36 of the second session. Referee Luis Rivera gave his fighting namesake three standing eight-counts (new to New York State) and there were no knockdowns!

In another four-rounder, Willie Kemp, 161, Troy, won a unanimous decision over Don Leonardo, Staten Island. Kemp is 6-1 (3). The last three rounds were entertaining, featuring toe-to-toe action.

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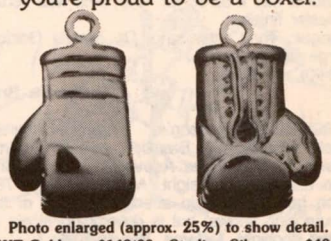

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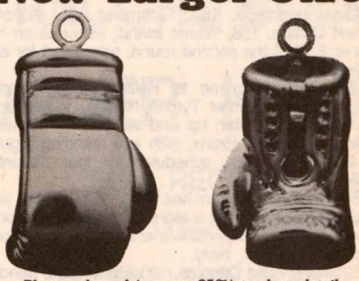

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Kemp eventually discovered that Leonardo carried his right hand too low and started scoring with looping left hooks to the head.

The best bout of the night was a six-rounder between Yoma Jacobin, 132, Albany, out of Guyana, and Regilio Tuur, 130½, Queens. It went tooth-and-nail for six bloody rounds, and it was surprisingly called a draw. It was a surprise because a draw was the fairest decision, and nobody expected it to be given. Tony Castellano and Dr. Marv Goldberg both had it even at 57-57, and George DeGabriel had it 58-56 for Tuur, who was certainly the faster finisher.

Judges: Tony Castellano, Dr. Marvin Goldberg, George DeGabriel
(2-13-90)

Charles Brown

BROOKLYN—Gleason's Arena—Unheralded **Donald Allison**, 139, Brooklyn, won a unanimous decision over **Aristides Acevedo**, 137, the Bronx, in an action-packed eight. All scores were 78-73. Allison has yet to gain attention outside of these obscure club shows, but is developing nicely without the spotlight. Referee, Wayne Kelly.

Jose Nieves, 141, the Bronx, pitched a near-shutout in a unanimous win, but got plenty of action out of Lamont Everett, 141, Manhattan, six rounds. Referee, Sammy Viruet.

In a lively battle of hard-luck opponent-types, southpaw Tomas Hernandez, 136½, the Bronx, edged out a split decision over Cesar Castro, 135½, Brooklyn, six. All scores were 58-56. Jack DeFares had Castro the winner, while Carol Castellano and Georgie Colon favored Hernandez. Referee, Viruet.

Jouvin Mercado, 168, Richmond Hill, stopped Robert Clinton, 168, Wards Island, who quit on his feet at 2:17 of the second round, scheduled for six. Referee, Viruet.

Changing his name to Kalifah Abdul Samad didn't help the former Tyrone Nelson, 141, Brooklyn, who was beaten up and stopped by Wilfredo Velez, 141½, the Bronx, with two standing eights, at 2:31 of the first, scheduled for four. Referee, Kelly.

Southpaw Jose Sanchez, 154, Manhattan, was impressive dishing out a fearsome walloping to poor Roy Reid, 155, Islip, with a unanimous four-round decision. Referee, Kelly.

Similarly, Willie Douglas, 160, Brentwood, handed a beating to hapless Terry Barnes, 162, Manhattan, who suffered a standing eight in the second, and lost a unanimous four-round verdict. Referee, Kelly.

In a sensational slam-banger, Alfonzo Diaz, 201, the Bronx, got a rough debut when he was floored in the first by Corey Coulter, 203, Greenwich, New York. But Diaz came back to flatten Coulter at 50 seconds of the second round, scheduled four. Referee, Viruet.

In a dreadful four-round heavyweight brawl, Curt Koch, 247, Denver, was deprived of a draw when referee Kelly took a point for pushing in the final round against Sinclair Babb, 239, Long Island City. Babb gained a split decision from DeFares (38-37) and Colon (39-36), while Castellano still had Koch ahead by 38-37.

Promoter: Charles Rapp Enterprises
Matchmaker: Ron Scott Stevens
Attendance: 900 (estimated)
(2-16-90)

J.R. Jowett

CANADA

ALBERTA

RED DEER—Altaplex Centre—The Canadian light heavyweight division has a new champion to replace the recently retired Willie Featherstone.

Danny Stonewalker, Fort McMurray, won the vacant title with a unanimous 12-round decision over **Dave Fiddler**, Edmonton. It was a good fight, but Stonewalker's edge in strength and experience became evident as the bout progressed.

In a 10-round semifinal, heavyweight Ken Lakusta got the verdict over Eddie Gonzalez, Houston, in what was another good fight.

Edmonton welterweight Stan Cunningham was stopped in five rounds by Ray Collins, Las Vegas.

Calgary light heavyweight Brent "Koko" Kosolofski started his pro career by stopping Bobby Green, Dunville, in the first round.

In a light heavyweight bout, Donald Stephens, Las Vegas, knocked out Nathan Dyer, Phoenix, in the second round.

Attendance: 1,500 (estimated)
(1-29-90)

EDMONTON—Northlands Coliseum—In the main event, **Smokin' Bert Cooper** won the vacant NABF heavyweight title by stopping **Orlin Norris** in eight rounds. Behind on the scorecards, Norris twisted his leg in the eighth and could not continue. Cooper upped to 22-5; Norris dropped to 22-3.

Henry Tillman, 212½, in the midst of a comeback, stopped a totally inept Tim Morrisson, Oklahoma, in two rounds.

David Bey, 286, scored a third-round TKO over Paul Bradshaw. Referee Dave Ward stopped this mismatch at 2:53 of the round.

In the first preliminary, Brent "Koko" Kosolofski, the only Canadian fighter on the card, won his second pro fight with a third-round TKO over J.J. Cottrell.

Attendance: 2,000 (estimated)
Promoter: Gary Stevenson
Matchmaker: Rick Parker
(2-17-90)

NOVA SCOTIA

HALIFAX—Halifax Forum—When Roddy McDonald pulled out of a scheduled 10-rounder with Darrell Flint, local middleweight **Gerry Meekison** became the headliner of this card. Meekison won a unanimous verdict over **Kevin Whaley** in six rounds but did nothing to worry Flint, the Canadian champion. It's time for Meekison to step up in the quality of his opponents.

Former amateur star Ryan Downey was held to a six-round draw by Detroit's Devin Vining.

Attendance: 1,200 (estimated)
Promoter: Sonny MacPhee
(2-15-90)

QUEBEC

MONTREAL—Paul Sauve Arena—Local boxing interest is increasing each time **Alain Bonnamie** headlines a card here. Bonnamie, 154½, 4-0, a former kickboxing champion, stopped local rival **Marlon Wright**, 150½, in seven rounds. Bonnamie dropped Wright three times during the fight and got the best of his opponent in just about every department. Inactive since his win over Mario Cusson two years ago, Wright, 9-0, looked weak and slow.

Local middleweight Normand Pearson, 2-1, needed only one round to destroy Martino Dopson.

Lightweight Michele Moffa, 2-1, Montreal, knocked out newcomer Hughes Daigneault in the first round.

Local beginner Mohamed Mokay won a four-round decision over Serge Charette, Laval.

Promoter: Roger Martel
Attendance: 4,200 (estimated)
(2-13-90)

Michael Gladu

MEXICO

ACAPULCO—**Armando "Jaiba" Salazar** TKO'd **Pedro Rabago** in the ninth of a scheduled 12-rounder to win the Mexican super flyweight title. Salazar dominated from the fourth round on. Rabago was cut over his right eye in the sixth round. Salazar's consistent punching so worsened the eye that Rabago's corner halted the bout before the start of the ninth.

Lauro Rodriguez stopped Vladimir Gallegos in the fourth of a scheduled 10-round featherweight fight.

Octavio Santos scored a fifth-round stoppage over Juan de la Cruz, bantamweights.

Bantamweight Ruben Guttierrez scored a first-round kayo over Ranulfo Hernandez.

Miguel Rodriguez defeated Rene Gambo via disqualification; featherweights.
(3-2-90)

MEXICALI—Calafia Bullring—In a featherweight bout scheduled for 10 rounds, **Javier Marquez** scored a second-round TKO over **Mario Gomez**. Gomez had been ranked third by the WBC.

In a 10-round super featherweight war, Mauro Gutierrez stopped Rodolfo Gomez when the ringside doctor refused to allow the WBC's number-two contender to come out for the seventh round. Gutierrez was cut over his left eye in the third, but rebounded to break his opponent's jaw in the fourth. Gomez was down in the fifth, but made it through the round. He even managed to hurt Gutierrez in the sixth. After the wild sixth round, the doctor visited both corners and determined that Gomez couldn't go on.

This card was a benefit for the House of Good Pastor Orphanage.

Attendance: 5,000 (estimated)
(3-2-90)

ACTOPAN—Welterweight **Merando Diaz** kayoed **Raul Lopez** in the second round.

In a battle of bantamweights, Esteban Arreola decisioned Manuel Ruiz.

In another bantamweight fight, Jose Galdino fought to a draw with Gabriel Campos.

Ignacio Trinidad knocked out Nacho Santos in the second round of a lightweight bout.

In a pairing of flyweights, Federico Quintane registered a third-round stoppage over Jaime Guitierrez.
(3-2-90)

HERMOSILLO—**Luis Mora** knocked out **Jose Parra** in the thrid round of their super lightweight bout.

Attendance: 9,000 (estimated)
(3-2-90)

QUERETARO—In a 10-round super featherweight bout, **Tomas Cordopa** won a decision over **Martin Soto**.

Jesus Garcia decisioned Emigdio Carmona in a 10-round matchup of super bantamweights.

Hector Lopez, 3-0, stopped Oscar Lua in the fourth round of a scheduled eight- round super featherweight bout.
(3-2-90)

MEXICO CITY—**Javier Varela** TKO'd **Juan Estrada** in the third round of a 10-round super lightweight battle.

A 10-round lightweight fight saw Jose Ulloa win a split decision over Luis Garcia.

In a scheduled six-round featherweight bout, Oscar Ortiz defeated Jose Montes via first-round disqualification.

Super flyweight Jesus Montiel TKO'd Ricardo Medina in the fifth round of a scheduled six.

In a four-round mini flyweight bout, Gerardo Garcia TKO'd Arturo Bautista in the final round.
(3-3-90)

CUATLA—In an eight-round flyweight bout, **Moises Soriano** outpointed **Juan Carlos Medel**.

In a six-round welterweight fight, Jose Santos battled to a draw with Javier Vizguerra.
(3-3-90)

SAN LUIS POTOSI—In a battle of flyweights, **Armadno Velasco** dominated **Hugo Partida** en route to a 10-round points win.
(3-10-90)

MEXICO CITY—Coliseo—Featherweight **Mario Alberto Rodriguez** notched his second win over **Pedro Mendoza** with a TKO in the seventh round of a scheduled 10-rounder.

Ramiro Buenrostro scored a second-round kayo over Justino Ramirez in an eight-round featherweight bout.

Joel Luna Zarate TKO'd Rodolfe Santamaria in the sixth and final round; bantamweights.
(3-12-90)

TIJUANA—**Rafael Morfin** decisioned **Jerome Coffee**, United States, in a 10-round featherweight clash.

Ramon Campa, 25-0, kayoed Manuel Ramos in the 10th round; welterweights.

Flyweight Cecilio Espino, 12-0, scored a first-round kayo over Jose Torres.

Miguel Martinez kayoed Jesus Molina in the first round of a flyweight bout.

Featherweight Jesus Ramirez scored a second-round kayo over Daniel Lopez.
(3-12-90)

CAMPECHE—**Melchor Cob Castro** retained the WBC Continental-Americas light flyweight title with a 12-round decision over Eduardo Ramirez.
(3-16-90)

ACAPULCO—**Felipe Rojas'** scheduled 10-round welterweight bout with **Juan Hernandez** ended in a no contest after the seventh round.

Featherweight Augustin Salinas stopped Raymundo Arce in the sixth round.

Bantamweight Antonio Salas scored a seventh-round TKO over Alberto Avila.

Flyweight Miguel Corona decisioned Ruben Alcocar.

Mini flyweight Danaiel Arredondo decisioned Aureo Dominguez.

Lightweight Martin Beltran registered a second-round stoppage over Alberto Loznano.
(3-16-90)

ACTOPAN—Super bantamweight **Emilio Silva** scored a fifth-round TKO over **Valentine Martinez**.

Bantamweight Antolin Alvarez decisioned

Apolonio Mayo.
Eusebio Gutierrez decisioned Walter Franco; welterweights.
Mini flyweight Jorge Barrera won a decision over Eleazar Bravo.
German Cardenas stopped Roberto Lopez in the first round; featherweights.
(3-16-90)

POZA RICA—Bantamweight **Eloy Ortega** TKO'd **Rogelio Velasco** in the third round. Their last outing was a victory for Ortega.
(3-16-90)

QUERETARO—Super featherweight **Hector Lopez**, 4-0, kayoed **Gaby Cadena** in the 10th and final round.
(3-16-90)

MEXICO CITY—Coliseo—**Francisco Javier Camacho**, 22-4 (15), won a split decision over **Juan Garcia** in a 10-round lightweight battle.
Super bantamweight Martin Perez stopped Jose de Jesus Garcia in the fifth of a scheduled eight-rounder.
Fernando Cervantes kayoed Cesar V. Chavez in the second round of a scheduled eight-round super bantamweight bout.
Mini flyweight Sergio Millan stopped Alberto Garcia in the second round.
Featherweight Tsaias Velasquez decisioned Angel Jimenez over four rounds.
(3-17-90)

LOS MOCHIS—Super lightweight **Mario Fuentes** scored a fifth-round TKO over **Ramon Verdugo**.
(3-23-90)

CULIACAN—Raul Rios won the Mexican flyweight title with a unanimous 12-round decision over **Santiago Mendez**.
Marcos Pacheco won a narrow 10-round decision over Coctor Hernandez; mini flyweights.
Mini flyweight Jose Luis Velardo scored a fifth-round kayo over Oscar Aguilar.
"Chachalaco" Mayors drew with Omar Pacheco; mini flyweights.
Featherweight Alejandro Landeros stopped Miguel Barraze in the first round.
Luis Berdugo decisioned Victor Zavala in a flyweight battle.
(3-30-90)

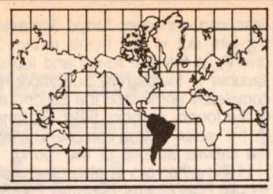
LA PAZ—Jesus Gallardo won the Mexican middleweight title with a seventh-round TKO over **Francisco Carballo**.
Raul Martinez Mora decisioned Jaime Fernandez in a 10-round super bantamweight bout.
Attendance: 8,000 (estimated)
(3-30-90)

JUAREZ—Lightweight **Santos Moreno** won a unanimous 10-round decision over **Tomas Quinines**, 22-1.
Alfredo Ramirez, 15-1, stopped Pedro de la Cruz, 21-1, at 2:07 of the ninth round; welterweights.
Bantamweight Alberto Cepeda scored a third-round TKO over Martin Ochoa.
Javier Ibarra stopped Jose Hernandez in the first round of a scheduled six; bantamweights.
Debuting super lightweight Raul Gonzalez put away Fernando Lee, after 46 seconds of the first round.
Jose Zamora stopped Javier Sanchez in the second round of their super lightweight bout.
Special honoree: Castarino Hernandez, who has been a timekeeper for 35 years.
Attendance: 1,500 (estimated)
(3-30-90)

SALINA CRUZ—Mini flyweight **Silveste Moyado** decisioned **Jacinto Serrano**.
Bantamweight Mario Diaz decisioned Ciro Cayetano.
(3-30-90)

MEXICO CITY—Coliseo—Bantamweight **Armando Castro**, 35-7-1, stopped 18-year-old **Javier Leon**, 30-2, at 1:38 of the fourth round. Referee: Octavio Meyran.
Welterweight Jesus Cardenas scored a third-round TKO over Gabino Mendoza.
In a battle of mini flyweights, Ladislao Vazquez won an eight-round decision over Juan Gonzalez. The judges scored 80-72, 80-72, and 79-73.
Flyweight Estaben Rodriguez stopped Octavino Chantes at 1:45 of the third round.
Maximino Llano stopped Fernando Juarez with 15 seconds left in th first round.
(3-31-90)

Bruce Williams



SOUTH AMERICA

ARGENTINA

ENTRE RIOS—Defensores del Oeste Club—Former Argentine and WBC International champion **Miguel Francia** captured the national featherweight belt by winning a unanimous decision over **Jose Mario Lopez**. Two judges scored 117-111; the third had it 119-114.
Television: VCC Video Cable (delay)
(2-10-90)

MENOZA—Mendocine Boxing Federation Stadium—**Osvaldo Corro**, 135, secured his most impressive victory as a pro, winning a unanimous decision over South American junior lightweight champion **Faustino Barrios**, 134¾, in a non-title bout. Corro, the brother of former world middleweight champion Hugo Corro, is the number-one contender in the Argentine rankings. The judges scored 100-98, 99-96, and 99-97.
(3-2-90)

SALTA—Club San Martin—Argentine welterweight champion **Hector Hugo Vilte**, 149½, scored a fifth-round TKO over **Jorge Morello**, 149½.
(3-2-90)

MAR DEL PLATA—Superdomo Stadium—**Jorge Fernando Castro**, 159, scored a sixth- round TKO of **Hector Lezcano**, 154. Lezcano was valiant, but Castro, 43-1-2 (32), looked dominant and stronger. When Lezcano was floored in the sixth, the referee stopped the fight, even though the loser didn't appear to be hurt.
Jose Margarino scored a sixth-round kayo over Omar Alegre.
Television: Channel 13 (Argentina)
(3-3-90)

BUENOS ARIES—Argentine Boxing Federation—**Daniel Sclarandi**, 148, won a split decision over **Jorge Tedjada**, 148. Judges Juan Colombo and Pedro Fernandez scored 99-94 and 96-95, respectively, for Sclarandi. Judge Humberto Boccardi scored for Tejada, 96-95.
(3-3-90)

RIO TERCERO, CORDOBA—Roberto Moran, 14-0, captured the Argentine bantamweight belt by winning a unanimous 12-round decision over **Juan Carlos Cortes**. The 22-year-old Moran is managed by Francisco Giodrano, who also handles former three-time flyweight and junior bantamweight champion Santos Laciar.
(3-8-90)

SALTA—Club San Martin—**Ricardo Nunez**, 152, won the vacant Salta Province junior middleweight title by stopping **Oscar Montenegro**, 152, with a tremendous left hook in the seventh round.
(3-9-90)

BUENOS ARIES—Luis Barrera, 16-1, recorded a fourth-round kayo over Luis Sanchez.
(3-9-90)

BUENOS ARIES—Argentine Boxing Federation Stadium—**Jesus Gil**, 142½, 9-5-1 (5), won a unanimous decision over **Nicasio Caceres**, 140, 16-10-2, in a hard-fought bout. The 22-year-old Gil scored with tremendously hard punches to the body, but Caceres fought back and made a good showing. Referee: Juan Maio. The scores were 99-95, 100-96, and 98-91.
(3-10-90)

BUENOS ARIES—Argentine Boxing Federation Stadium—**Juan Carlos Scaglia**, 159, won an exciting 10-round unanimous decision over **Luis Marcelo Marquez**. The 28-year-old Scaglia, 8-1-2 (5), was stronger and faster than Marquez, but had some trouble avoiding Marquez' right hand. The scores were 98-96, 97-94, and 97-95. The referee was Jorge Rizzo.
(3-17-90)

Carlos Irusta

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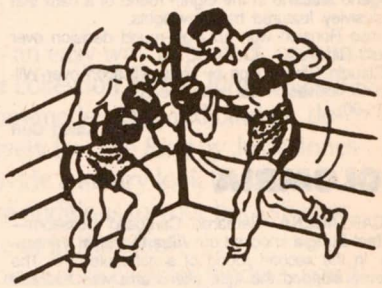

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BRAZIL

ARAGUARI—Welterweight **Adison Cardoso** stopped **William Felisberto** in four rounds.

Edemilson "Rambo" Tomacio stopped Eduardo Santos in the second round of their heavyweight bout.
(2-9-90)

BELEM DO PARA—**Arao Macedo** knocked out **Rogerio Macario** in the eighth round of a card that exclusivley featured bantamweights.

Jose Ronaldo won an eight-round decision over Paulo Ribeire.

Claudio Ribeiro won by disqualification over Wilson Goncalves in the sixth round.
(2-15-90)

Kaled Curi

COLOMBIA

CARTAGENA—Bernardo Caraballo Coliseum—**Rafael Zungia** knocked out **Alberto Parra**, Venezuela, in the second round of a scheduled 10. The referee stopped the fight after Parra was knocked down for the second time in the second round.

Former strawweight contender Augustin "Baby" Garcia got the nod over Yamiel Caraballo in a good 10-rounder.

In an eight-round featherweight bout, Jimmy Garcia, Barranquilla, who was knocked down in the final round, won an unpopular decision over Wilson Fontalvo, San Estanislao, Bolivia.

Local flyweight Roverto Beleno drew with Omar Gonzalez, Barranquilla.

Reynaldo Hurtado knocked out Arnold Paocha in the first round of their bantamweight bout.

Lightweight Henry Pajaro kayoed Fernando Rios in the first round.

In a four-round flyweight bout, Juan Sanchez outpointed verteran Joselo Perez.
(2-9-90)

APARTADO, ANTIOQUAI—**Elvis Alvarez**, Medellin, TKO'd **Genaro Manajarrez**, Santa Marta, in the sixth round of a scheduled 10.

Ruben Dario Palacios stopped Luis Navarro in the second round of their super bantamweight bout.

Flyweight Wilson Palacios won a decision over David Orozco in a 10-round battle of flyweights.

In an eight-round light heavyweight bout, Joselo Fanor Mosquera decisioned Juan Viloria.

David Banguera, Medellin, decisioned Hernando Pena, Monteria, in a four-round battle of flyweights.
(2-17-90)

CARTAGENA—In a battle of local fighters, former bantamwieght contenter **Miguel Maturana** won a six-round decision over **Luis Miranda**.

Featherweight William Herrera, Cartagena, 2-0, decisioned Jorge Martinez over eight rounds in a return match.

Milton Giraldo won a six-round decision over Vicente Secca.

Carlos Zarate—no, not the Mexican—kayoed Wilfrido Gonzalez in the second round of a scheduled six-rounder.

Alfredo Godoy decisioned Durvey Osorio in four rounds.

Ramon Melendez iced Reimerio Palacios in the first round.
(2-23-90)

Luis A. Gonzalez

FRENCH GUYANA

CAYENNE—Sports Hall—**Yomo Jacobin**, Cayenne, improved to 3-0 against late substitute **Jose "Speedy" Gonzales**, United States. Gonzales sped through the first round with some neat footwork and combinations, but faded in the second and eventually retired at the end of the third round of the scheduled eight-rounder.

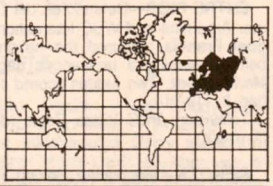
Brian Koulen, Guyana, now based in Cayenne, won a close six-round decision against Pascall David, Guyana, in their junior welterweight contest. It was David's pro debut. Koulen had won his pro debut in November.

Wayne Briggs, 6-6, won by TKO when Carlton Griffith, Guyana, now based in Cayenne, retired through sheer exhaustion at the end of the fifth round of their scheduled six-round featherweight bout.
(12-8-89)

CAYENNE—Sports Hall—Rising junior welterweight star **Yoma Jacobin**, Cayenne, dominated American opponent **Lloyd Watasky** before knocking him out in the fourth round. Watasky started bravely in the first round and looked about to give Jacobin a tough run, but Jacobin took over and completely dominated the second and third rounds. In the fourth, Jacobin, 5-0-1 (3), landed a short right to the solar plexus that sent Watasky cringing to the canvas at 2:45 of the round.

In the other pro bout on the card, super middleweight Ray Alberts Guyana, 7-4 (5), showed much determination in winning his six-rounder against a durable but badly conditioned Willy Kemp, United States, 6-2.
(3-16-90)

Will R. Boodhoo



EUROPE

ENGLAND

LEICESTER—Grand Hotel—Sheffield's **Gary Maxwell**, 130, outpointed Welsh super featherweight champion **James Hunter**, 126, Middlesborough, over eight two-minute rounds. Hunter played the part of slugger, while Maxwell played boxer. Maxwell constantly capitalized on a distinct reach advantage and made good use of his accurate left jab. Referee Terry O'Connor scored 78½-77 for the winner.

Jamie Morris, 129, Nuneaton, scored a narrow points victory over Lee Ahmed, 135, Birmingham, over six two-minute rounds. The scoring was 58½-58.

Nottingham's Chris Walker, 164, scored a first-round kayo over debuting Willie James, 166, Leeds. A dynamite right sent James to the canvas for the full count.

Brendan Ryan, 139, Nottingham, and veteran Oliver Henry, 140, Kings Lynn, battled to a draw over six two-minute rounds in a very lively set-to. Referee O'Connor had it 58-58.
(2-5-90)

BIRMINGHAM—Brierley Hill Civic Hall—In a scheduled eight-rounder, **Tony Baker**, 155, New Cross, stopped local boy **Gary Sommerville**, 151, just 1:42 into the fight. A solid right dropped Sommerville for a count of six. Thirty seconds later, referee Paul Thomas made his timely intervention.

In the preliminaries, Huddersfield's Muhammed Shaffique, 131½, won a thrilling six-round decision over Newcastle's Frankie Foster, 130½. Referee Mike Donovan had it 59½-58½.

Local boy Malcolm Melvin, 140, edged out Scunthorpe's Trevor Meikle, 144, over six two-minute rounds. Referee Paul Thomas scored 59-58½. Meikle and Melvin went toe-to-toe for the entire fight, with Melvin winning in a photo-finish.

Wayne Windle, 134½, Sheffield, put in a masterful performance against Belfast's Mike Close, 134. The scoring was 59½-57½ for Windle after six two-minute rounds.

Neil Leitch, 130, Scunthorpe, outpointed Chesterfield's Lee Fox, 129½, over six two-minute rounds. Leitch triumphed by a score of 59½-58.

In a battle of local boys, Andre Wharton, 154, brought the show to a grandstand finish with a fourth-round stoppage of Bullit Andrews, 156. A big right was the sign-off punch that prompted referee Paul Thomas to intervene with one second left in the round.
(2-5-90)

LONDON—National Sporting Club Cafe Royal—**Steve Osborne**, 184, Nottingham, scored an eight-round points victory over **Dave Lawrence**, 182, Norwich. In what proved to be more of a maul than a brawl, Osborne got referee Tony Walker's nod by 79-78.

At junior middleweight, Fulham's Carlton Myers, 154¾, knocked out Benji Good, Brockley, 153, almost before the echo of the opening bell had stopped. Referee Reg Thompson counted out the prostate Good just 19 seconds into the first stanza.

Welterweight Dave Pierre, 143½, Peterborough, stopped Cardiff's Dave Griffiths, 143, 48 seconds into the last round of a scheduled six-rounder.

Lightweight Wayne Goult, 135, Norwich scored a 59-58½ points decision over Wokingham's Richard Dimmock, 133.
(2-5-90)

OLDHAM—Sports Centre—**Joey Jacobs**, 129½, Manchester, became the British super featherweight champion when he dethroned Bradford's **John Doherty**, 129, over 12 pulsating rounds.

This contest was in the classic boxer vs. puncher mold, with Jacobs the slugger and Doherty the stylist.

Despite blood flowing from facial wounds, both men fought at a torrid pace to the end. Referee Billy Rafferty scored it for Jacobs, 118-117.

Manchester's Ossie Maddix, 146, won the Central Area welterweight title when he comfortably outpointed Ray Taylor, 147, Great Harwood, 98½-97. Referee: Brian Hogg.

Michael Murray, 224, Manchester, stopped Birmingham's Al Malcolm, 229, 37 seconds into the fifth round of a scheduled eight-rounder.

Manchester's Steve Foster, 164½, stopped Sheffield's Sean O'Phoenix, 163½, 1:59 into the fourth of a scheduled six-rounder.

Manchester's Tony Connellan, 146, outpointed Yeovil's Julian Eavis, 147, by a 79-77½ margin on referee Phil Cowsil's scorecard.
(2-6-90)

LONDON—Elephant and Castle—Commonwealth cruiserweight champion **Derek Angol**, 195, 18-0 (14), was absolutely merciless in stopping American **Eddie Smith**, 195½, 8-3-1, in the second round of a scheduled eight.

After pummelling his opponent for about four minutes, Angol let loose a picture-perfect overhand right that turned Smith's legs to putty. Having unsuccessfully tried to regain his feet not once but twice (a la Trevor Berbick vs. Mike Tyson), Smith was in no state to continue, and referee Richard Davies stopped it 1:14 into round two.

Cordwell Hylton, 184, Walsall, stopped Southampton's Jimmy Peters, 181½, at 1:07 of the fourth round when a nasty cut over Peters' right eye forced referee Davies to halt the contest.

Brighton's Leigh Wicks, 149½, took a 79-78 points verdict against Wakefield's Ernie Noble, 150, Referee: McDonnell.

Bermondsey's Darren Burford, 157½, stopped Southampton's Martin Rosamond, 154, after 42 seconds of the fifth round.

Hornsey's Jason Primera, 128½, outpointed Birmingham's Phil Lashley, 133, over six two-minute rounds, 59½-58½.

Dean Lake, 166, Herne Bay, stopped Yarmouth's Marty Duke, 163, 53 seconds into the fourth round of a scheduled six-rounder. Duke retired because of a cut eyelid.
(2-8-90)

BRENTWOOD—International Centre—Frenchman **Daniel Londas**, 128, successfully defended the European super featherweight title against Bethnal Green's **Mark Reefer**, 130, the Commonwealth super featherweight champion.

Reefer came in very confident of annexing the European crown, but he was out-thought, outfought, and outclassed by a very impressive Londas.

Things started going disastrously wrong for Reefer in the third round. After a good exchange, Reefer emerged with a nasty gash over his right eye, which prompted referee Kapel Klijnoot to have the injury inspected by the ringside doctor. Reefer was allowed to continue, but to no avail. He was cut over the left eye in the sixth and also received a standing eight-count. Even though he was willing to continue, his cornermen refused to let him out for the eighth round in what was a compassionate and sensible act.

Sheffield's Johnny Nelson, 194, stopped American Dino Homsey, 195, in the seventh round of a scheduled eight. For Nelson, it was a quick return following his poor effort against world champion Carlos DeLeon. Referee Dave Parris stopped the fight 1:42 into the seventh with Nelson swarming all over Homsey.

Hitchin's Danny Porter, 119, clearly outpointed Manchester's Des Gargano, 124, winning every one of the six rounds on referee Dave Parris' scorecard.

In an entertaining super featherweight contest, Birmingham's Hugh Ford, 131, outpointed Harold Warren, 128, United States, over eight rounds. Ford was the superior stylist, but his American opponent proved very game and durable. Referee Roy Francis scored 79½-77½.

Ian Strudwick, 160, a promising young middleweight from Hockley, dominated his American opponent, Thomas Covington, winning by shutout on

the card of referee Roy Francis over eight three-minute rounds.

Phil Soundy, 194, Benfleet, stopped Andy Balfe, 193, Swindon, 1:17 into the third round of a scheduled six.
(2-14-90)

LONDON—London Arena—The promotion signaled the return to ringside of promoter Frank Warren, who was shot in November. Warren made a very speedy and successful recovery, and it was nice to see him back where he belongs.

British junior middleweight champion **Gary Stretch**, 154, St. Helens, was in total command, knocking out Argentine **Ramon Alegre**, 154, to annex the WBC International junior middleweight title. Stretch proved far too accurate and skillful for the rough and rugged Alegre. He made Alegre miss wildly and peppered him with fast and hard combination punches. American referee Arthur Mercante went into Alegre's corner after round six and told him he was stopping the fight before the Argentine was seriously hurt. The win sets up Stretch for a world title crack.

Colin "Sweet C" McMillan, 125½, Barking, stopped Mexican Vidal Tellez, 125, in the second of a scheduled six-round contest.

American import Mark Fernandez, 134, Denver, scored a major upset, stopping British lightweight champion Steve Boyle, 138, Glasgow, at 1:01 of the sixth.

Debuting Benny Collins, 138½, Yateley, scored a points victory over Newport's Vaughan Carnegie, 138, by a 59-58 margin. This was a great battle.

Closing the show, Cardiff's Wayne Ellis, 156, and Dudley's Lindon Scarlett, 154, fought to a draw (scoring of 60-60), after six three-minute rounds.
(2-14-90)

Brian Doogan

LONDON—Wembley Arena—On the Breland-Honeyghan undercard, York's **Henry Wharton**, 166, stopped American southpaw **Joe Potts**, 158, Lexington, Kentucky, with 10 seconds left in the fourth round.

Derek Grainger, 151¾, Bethnal Green, halted another American import, Jerry Smith, 146½, Atlanta, 1:55 into the sixth round.

Undoubtedly the best fight of the undercard was Darren Westover's victory over Nottingham's Steve Osborne. Westover, 191½, Ilford, was behind when he landed a perfectly timed uppercut on the jaw of Osborne, 190, forcing referee Larry O'Connell to halt the contest 2:20 into the last of a scheduled six rounds.

Leeds' Michael Gale, 178, overwhelmed a brave Peter Vosper, 175½, Plymouth, forcing referee Roy Francis to step in and halt the mismatch 2:47 into the second of a scheduled six rounds.

The final bout saw Brixton's Gary Logan, 149, knock out American Anthony Travers, 149, St. Louis, with a beautiful left hook at 1:05 of the fifth round; scheduled for eight.
(3-3-90)

LONDON—York Hall—Britain's most entertaining and articulate boxer, **Chris Eubank**, dethroned Argentine **Hugo Corti** in eight rounds to win the WBC International middleweight title. Eubank, 160, landed stiff jabs, and built up a clear lead. Corti, 156½, had no answer to Eubank's antics, and every lunging offensive he attempted fell short during the opening nine minutes.

After Eubank tested Corti's chin with a good right uppercut in the fourth, the pace quickened. Corti closed the gap and started to score with his own leads. During the break, Eubank had his right glove replaced, as the old one was split.

Corti took some heavy shots at the start of the sixth, but rallied with precise crosses. Now Eubank had a fight on his hands. But with less than 20 seconds left, Eubank landed a combination of fast shots, with a final short right sending Corti down. Eubank rushed to end the matter, but the bell sounded during the onslaught, and both looked very weary as they walked back to their corners.

For 20 seconds of the seventh, Eubank delivered everything that he had, but Corti was very well protected, and the speed and strength seemed to leave the English fighter. Corti started to roll wide, and then increasingly attacked with growing success. Eubank's punches fell short and he was holding as Corti, now wide awake and hustling, grew in confidence while Eubank visibly faded.

An accidental clash of heads left Corti dripping blood from his left eye, so Belgian referee Jean Deswert stopped the action with 18 seconds left and called in the ringside doctor.

Almost six minutes of confusion ensued.

Eubank hovered with his hands raised as the

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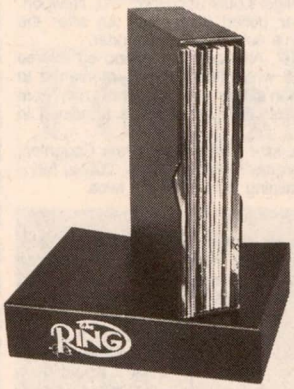

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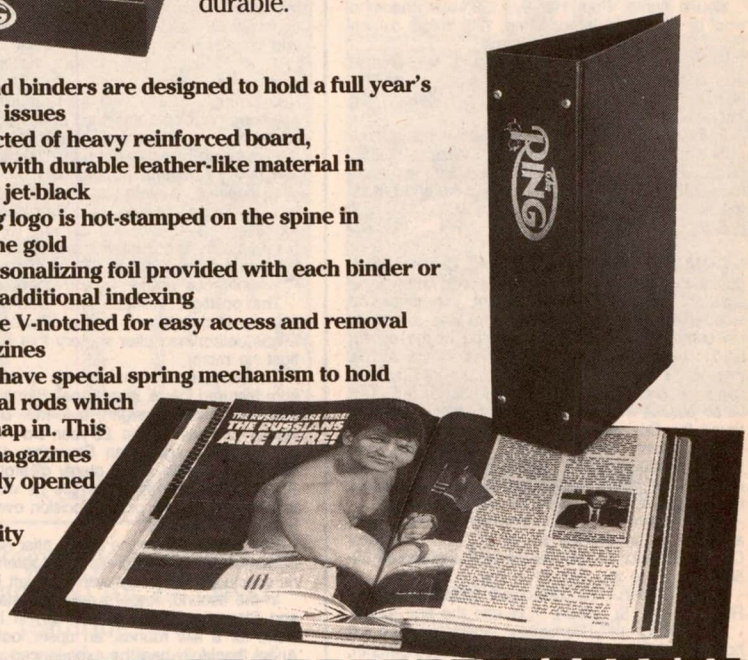

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doctor looked at Corti's eye and the capacity crowd roared, believing the Englishman had won. However, through the celebratory chants, people were trying to draw the attention of the referee to Eubank's left glove, which was split to bits. A new glove arrived, the doctor left Corti's eye, and Eubank sat for about three minutes as his corner replaced the glove. In the other corner, Corti's handlers were illegally tending to his cut, and then it was noticed that he also had a split glove! When the action resumed, neither fighter landed a shot the rest of the round.

Eubank connected with a right cross and Corti's eye split free of its corner-covering and was bleeding as they went into a weary tangle. Corti retreated as another long right caught the eye, and the referee halted the fight and crowned the new champion 36 seconds into the eighth round.

The undercard featured five of Barry Hearn/Darkie Smith's young prospects: Michael Hughes, 149, knocked out Yugoslavian Josif Rajc, 145, after 1:29 of the third round of a scheduled eight-rounder. Referee Dave Parris had been looking carefully at Rajc before Camden Town's Hughes dropped the import with a left hook for the full count.

Bethnal Green's Francis Ampofo, 115, was outpointed by Welshman Robbie Regan, 115, and after six lively rounds. Parris scored 59-58½.

House fighter Paul Harvey, 128, was made to work by Dundee's James Milne, 128, before collecting a 59½-58 verdict from Parris.

Exciting debutant Bradley Stone, 124½, chased and chased veteran Manchester campaigner Des Gargano, 123, and was awarded referee Reg Thompson's 60-57 verdict.

Portsmouth's Michael Discoll, 139¾, knocked out unbeaten Plaistow prospect Billy Couzens, 138½, 36 seconds into the second round with an enormous left hook that sent Couzens down and out for the count.
(3-6-90)

DONCASTER—Adwick Leisure Centre—Liverpool's **Sugar Gibiliru**, 129½, secured the vacant Central Area super featherweight title when he stopped **Peter Gabbitus**, 129, who was retired by his cornermen after the sixth round of the scheduled 10-round contest. Gibiliru had things all his own way over the first three stanzas, but Gabbitus came back to take the next two. Gibiliru put on a fierce assault in round six, and by the end of the round the Doncaster lad had nothing left.

Kevin Plant, 156½, Denaby, dictated the pace and dominated Yeovil's Julian Eavis, 150, to score a 79½-75½ points victory on the card of referee Brian Anderson over eight two-minute rounds.

Birmingham's Andrew Robinson, 138, was awarded a controversial points decision over local Dean Bramhald, 141¾. The contest was scored 59-58½, much to the disgust of the crowd.

Mark Antony, 135, Doncaster stopped Stewart Rimmer, 134, St. Helen, 1:31 into the first round.

Eddie King, 147, Doncaster, landed one big left hook to kayo Cliff Churchwood, 147, Bournemouth, 1:10 into the sixth and final round.
(3-7-90)

WATFORD—Watford Leisure Centre—The main event turned into an absolute all-out war with **Sean Murphy**, 127½, St. Albans, outpointing Mexican **Mario Lozano** over eight three-minute rounds. The Mexican dumped Murphy onto the seat of his pants for a count of nine inside the opening 30 seconds. But Murphy, the top contender for the British featherweight title, recovered well to take the remaining seven rounds on the referee's scorecard, 79½-76½.

Paul Day, 141½, Stevenage, scored a fourth-round TKO over Darren Mount, 143½, Sheffield. There was non-stop action until it was halted by referee Geoff Pounds due to cuts over Mount's eyes.

Action-based Mickey Lloyd, 149, outpointed Brighton's Simon Eubank, 148, over six three-minute rounds. Lloyd got referee Tony Walker's nod, 59½-58½.

Swansea's Paul Lynch, 165, pounded out a points victory over Sheffield's Tony Booth, 156, over six two-minute rounds. The brave Booth was at a substantial weight disadvantage but, to his credit, lasted the course. Referee Pounds scored 60-57½.

West Ham's Terry Dixon, 180, comfortably outpointed Walsall's Cordwell Hylton, 190, over eight two-minute rounds, 79-77.
(3-8-90)

BRISTOL—Yate Leisure Centre—The main event saw an unexpected upset when underdog **Barry Ellis**, 220, Clapham, stopped Western Area heavyweight champion **Gary McConnell**, 212, Bristol, in the fourth of a scheduled eight-rounder. Ellis took control in the third, when an uppercut staggered the Bristol lad. He maintained this advantage, and referee Denzil Lewis stopped the contest at 1:45 of round four.

In a very lively light welterweight contest, Swansea's Kevin Jenkins, 138½, was awarded a 59-58½ decision against Joey Moffat, 139, Liverpool, over six two-minute rounds. Referee: Grant Wallis.

Chris Walker, 170, Nottingham, showed a lot of power against Nigel Louis Johnson, 170, Newport. Johnson's corner pulled their man out after the third round of this scheduled six-rounder.

Peter Reid, 157, Alfreton, was behind on referee Wallis' scorecard when [the referee] intervened to save Southampton's Martin Rosamund, 154, from further punishment. Only 10 seconds remained in this six-rounder.

The final bout saw Swaqnsea's Chris Coughlan, 195, outpoint Torquay's Mark Langley, 205½, 59½-58, in an entertaining fight over six twos.
(3-10-90)

LONDON—Royal Albert Hall—**Gary Mason**, 246, the British heavyweight champion, so long in the shadow of stablemate Frank Bruno, was heckled during his 10-round points win against Texan **Everett "Big Foot" Martin**, 235. Because Martin went the distance with George Foreman, National Promotions (Jarvis Astaire) used that performance to try and convince the public that the fight would be a test for Mason before he challenged top-10 contenders.

Overweight Martin was briefly down in the first but hung on, displaying bags of courage to last the round and the remaining 10 stanzas. It was often dull, clubbing heavyweight non-action stuff, with Mason failing to stamp his authority on an opponent who seemed content to stick it out and stick around. English referee Dave Parris scored 98½-97 for Mason, 34-0, who left the ring with a cut over his right eye. The English crowd jeered his exit and mocked him by chanting "Bruno, Bruno, Bruno . . . " in wondrous soccer terrace harmony.

The postfight scenario was unfortunate: It was discovered that Mason had a detached retina, and it was determined after surgery that he would likey fight no more.

An excellent Commonwealth cruiserweight title fight featured Derek Angol, the champion from London, and Andy Straughn, a former British cruiserweight champion. The 25-year old Angol, 190, is five years younger than Straughn, 189½, whose experience posed Angol plenty of problems. It was Angol's first defense of the title he won in November with a one-way points decision over tough Australian Apollo Sweet.

The fight ended in the eighth after Angol dropped Straughn with a perfect right and referee Dave Parris concluded the count with 1:58 left in the round.

In the second, Angol's right eye started to close and Straughn started to roll, as he increased his work; for a few rounds, an upset looked possible. Angol thankfully had the experienced cornerwork of Terry Lawless, George Francis, and Frank Black to control the swelling and retain a level of vision.

From about the fifth on, Angol was finding his range and moving with ease, away from Straughn's large hooks and long jabs. The fight was rapidly coming under Angol's control, and the single-punch ending sealed a raging performance.

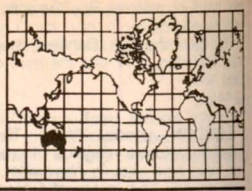
Puerto Rican welterweight Jorge Maysonet, 149½, sent the career of former rising star Daren Dyer, 150, into serious descent with a hurtful second-round stoppage victory. Maysonet, who went four rounds with Simon Brown in a world title-fight mismatch, was in control and avoided all of Dyer's big hopeful hooks before opening up with precise shots to have the loser out on his feet and needing referee Tony Walker's intervention at 2:10 of the second round.

Derek Grainger, 153½, 14-0, whacked out Manchester's Ray Taylor, 151, after 1:37 of the second, with referee Mike Jacobs completing the count.

Potential British light middleweight challenger W. O. Wilson, 153, landed a left on the eye of Newton Barnett, 156½, and Barnett leaped back, clutching his eye. There was blood under the eyelid, and after 2:23 of the first round, referee Tony Walker declared Wandsworth's Wilson the winner.

Baltimore's Warren "Chico" Thompson, 254½, exposed the limitations of Mickey Duff's cruiserweight hope Henry Akinwande, 211½. The vast difference in weights may have been a factor, but Akinwande was not impressive, as he mauled his way to a 60-57 victory (referee Jacobs) after six awful rounds.
(3-14-90)

Steven Bunce



PAN PACIFIC

AUSTRALIA

VICTORIA

MELBOURNE—Festival Hall—**Lester Ellis**, 142, made short work of Brazilian **Luis Carlos Dorea**, 140¾, knocking him cold with a right to the jaw in the third round of a scheduled 10-rounder. Ellis, the former IBF junior lightweight champion (he still is Australian lightweight king), looked good when he opened up. Referee: Chris Anderson.

The three other fights were each scheduled for 10 rounds. Craig Trotter, 161, Australia, halted Brazilian Reginaldo Dos Santos, 160, at the end of round eight. Santos retired in his corner.

Australians Ken Carter, 135, and Scott Brouwer, 133¼, fought to a draw.

Jason Murphy, 121¼, halted Wayne Elliott, 126¼, in round five. Both are Australians. Murphy was just too good.

Promoter: Bill Mordey's Classic Proimotions
(2-14-90)

MELBOURNE—Showground—Australian-based New Zealander **Jimmy Thunder**, 220½, 7-0 (7), won the vacant WBC International heavyweight title when vastly overweight **Mauricio Villegas**, 285¼, quit while undergoing a count after being floored in round three. A right to the head decked the Mexican, who rose during the count, then walked to his corner. Referee: Malcolm Bulner.

What was Villegas doing in any fight—let alone a championship—when he carried a huge gut that prevented him seeing his knees without a mirror?

Thunder is trained by Jack Rennie, who took Lionel Rose to the world bantamweight title in 1968.

In eight-round preliminaries: Ross Richmond, 141½, decisioned Tony Marretta, 141.

Alan Gibson, 149, decisioned Mark Glover, 148¾.

Alex Wassa, 145½, decisioned Paul Delosa, 141½. All good fights.

Four rounds: Craig Nicholls, 126½, drew with Carlos Araneda, 127.

Promoter: Don Stuchberry
(2-24-90)

QUEENSLAND

MANSFIELD—Tavern—**Shane Knox**, 136½, stopped **Paulo Pinto**, 136¾, when Pinto's corner surrendered at the end of round five. Pinto had subbed only three days earlier and was not 100 percent, which he needed to be to beat a fighter of Knox' class. Pinto put up a good fight while it lasted, but Knox was in charge all the way.

Pat Leglise, 129, former Australian junior welterweight champion, stepped in at the lightest weight of his career, yet boxed brilliantly and easily outpointed Johnny Fooks, 132¼, over 10 rounds.

In four-rounders: Kid Glover, 137¾, won on points over Mark Salafia, 134½.

Jamie Fooks, 136¾, decisioned Roy Saunders, 132¼.

Ivan Bruckner, 140, stopped Flash Gordon, 133½, in round two due to cut eye.

Gary Wills, 180½, won on points over Jeff Hardman, 169¾.

John Porter, 161, won on points over Selwyn Currie, 152¼.
(2-16-90)

BRISBANE—Festival Hall—**Apollo Sweet**, 189½, retained the Australian and OPBF cruiserweight crowns with an eight-round stoppage of **Vivian Schawlger**, 187, in what was a slugging battle. Now for the unusual: Schwalger is serving a jail sentence. He should be released by early April. He was given leave from jail to contest the title, then returned to jail. The promoters, Kirk Wynne and Russell Young, are also serving sentences in the

same jail—they have about a year still left on their sentences! They also returned to jail after the fight.

The referee of the Sweet-Schwalger fight, Denzil Creed, an experienced international referee, lives near Brisbane and works as a warder in a jail, but not the same jail where the promoters and Schwalger are currently residing.

And here is the cruncher: Two busloads of prisoners attended the fight, then returned to jail!

In another title tilt, this one for the Australian bantamweight crown, Kevin Johnson, 116½, lost the belt to Robert Spencer, 117¼, on a disqualification in round 12. It was a very good battle, with Spencer was ahead 106-104, 107-103, 107-104, at the end of the 11th round. Johnson flew into the attack in the final heat and decked Spencer with only seven seconds to go. Then Johnson rushed in and hit Spencer while he was down. Referee Alan Moore immediately disqualified him.

Spencer collapsed before leaving the ring. He was diagnosed as being exhausted due to the hard fight which took place during a humid heat wave.

Allan McNamara, 172, won an eight-round decision over Tom West, 159½.

Percy Israel, 152½, outpointed Patrick Axisa, 157, over eight rounds.

Gary Wills, 171, stopped Greg Liddle, 169, in the second of a scheduled four-rounder.
(3-2-90)

SOUTH AUSTRALIA

RIDLEYTON—Croatian Club—Croatian-born **Ivan Rukavina**, 174¼, who came to Australia at age 15, defended the Australian light heavyweight title for the first time with a clear-cut decision over **Emmanuel Otti**, 172. The show was promoted by Ivan Rukavina!

Rukavina clearly won over 12 rounds. Otti seemed short of a gallop.

Chris Nicolaou, 170¾, won a four-round points decison over Guy Murdoch, 165½.
(2-25-90)

NEW SOUTH WALES

MOUNT PRITCHARD—Community Club—**John Bogolin**, 157¾, decisioned **Alex Tui**, 158¾, in an action-packed 10-rounder. Judges John Bailey, Garry Dean, and Mick Benneto scored 97-93, 99-93, and 98-95, respectively. *The Ring* scored 98-94 for the winner. No knockdowns, but the Fijian shook Bogolin three times. Referee: Johnny Wright.

Three good sixes supported the main event. Wayne Betts, 162, outpointed Jamie Wright, 163¼.

Steve Betts, 138¾, won a split decision over Paul Nasari, 136¾.

Lucas Mathew, 119, Tanzania, now living in Australia, outpointed Martin Roberts, 122¼.

Promoter: Ian Fear
(3-21-90)

PARRAMATTA—Leauges Club—Unbeaten **Renato Cornett**, 129, 17-0-1, defended the Australian junior lightweight title by halting **Craig Pevy**, 129, 16-12, at the end of round five, with a cut at the corner of Pevy's left eye bringing the stoppage. It was a very good action fight. Referee Billy Males intervened at the end of the round—seconds after the cut occurred—and crowned Cornett the winner.

Vito Gaudioso, 160, stopped Terry Roberts, 159, 40 seconds into the eighth and final round. At the end of round seven, Roberts led by one point on two cards, and was even on the third.

Three sixes filled the remainder of the card. Brian Williams, 135¼, outpointed Mario Crisafulli, 139½, in a good action-filled bout.

In another good fight, Les Fear, 139, drew with Paul Nasari, 134.

Bob Mirovic, 237, seemed lucky to gain a split decision over Niko Degei, 261¼.

Promoter: Graig Mordey

Matchmaker: Ray Connelly
(3-28-90)

WESTERN AUSTRALIA

CLAREMONT—Perth Superdome—**Wilf Gentzen**, 147, retained the Australian welterweight title with a unanimous decision over veteran **Jeff Malcolm**, 146½, over 12 rounds. Referee Tom Farranto, who also judged, scored 117-112. Judges Marty McDonald and Bill Ivory carded 115-113 and 115-114, respectively.

Malcolm, 75-21-10, two months short of his 34th birthday, has engaged in 21 title fights in a career that began in 1971. Gentzen, 18-3-1, was 11 days short of his 27th birthday.

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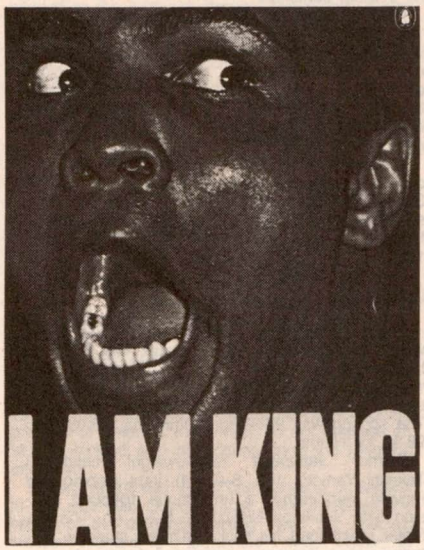

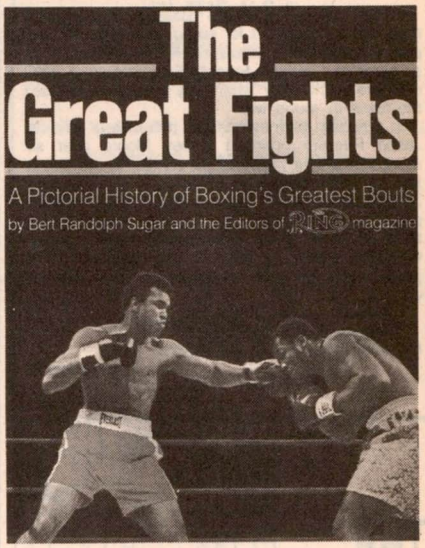

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In two other scheduled 12-rounders, local Brad Mogridge, 146, defeated Fijian Albert Marchong, 145, on a foul in the sixth round of a bout billed for the vacant South Pacific welterweight title. Mogridge was in charge all the way and floored Marchong in round six. When he rose, Marchong threw Mogridge to the floor and belted him, which prompted referee Bill Ivory to disqualify him.

Local Lou Cafaro, 162½, former Australian middleweight and junior light heavyweight champion, met Toss Lelei, 165¾, New Zealand, in what was billed for the vacant South Pacific super middleweight title. Cafaro floored the Samoan- born New Zealander with a right to the jaw, and Lelei was counted out at 1:45.

Promoter: Sam Bruno
(3-23-90)

Ray Mitchell

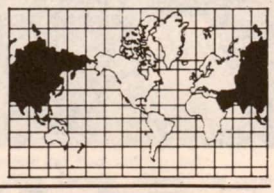
NEW ZEALAND

AUCKLAND—Auckland's Gluepot Hotel—In a main event scheduled for six rounds, Hawaiian import **Thomas Mika**, who clearly was streets ahead of game but willing **Joseph Soy**, scored a TKO over the Aucklander when Soy's cornermen skied the towel in round two.

In a pro-am tourney handled by amateur officials, Jason Raerere opposed Davey Moore over six rounds of a light heavyweight contest in the first of two pro bouts staged on this card. After three well-boxed rounds, both ringmen fought at a gruelling pace in the fourth and fifth. The final round was of torrid action. In all, it was a clean and lively contest, with little separating them at the conclusion. The judges' split decision in Raerere's favor seemed correct.

Promoter: Lloyd Christiansen
Attendance: 400 (estimated)
(2-27-90)

Johnny Hanks



THE ORIENT

JAPAN

TOKYO—Korakuen Hall—In the first Japanese card of 1990, southpaw prospect **Takashi Matsuo**, 119, 11-0 (5), was befuddled by the aggressiveness of Filipino **Rex Rapiso**, 117, 25-7 (7), but managed to outpunch him and win an eight-round split decision. Scoring: 78-77 and 79-78 for Matsuo, and 79-78 for Rapiso. *The Ring* had it 77-77.

In another eight, Hiroaki Matsumoto, 121, 6-6-1 (3), lopsidedly battered Yoshiteru Horikawa, 122, 6-6-2 (2), en route to a TKO win, with the latter's cornerman tossing in the towel at 2:09 of the fifth round.

Promoter: Shinwa Kawakami Promotions
(1-4-90)

OSAKA—Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium—Former WBC world strawweight champion **Hiroki Ioka**, 108, made a fine comeback by pounding out a 10-round shutout decision over tough Indonesian **Udin Baharrudin**, 107½, 16-4-4 (2). There were no knockdowns, but Ioka fully utilized his faster footwork and superior hand speed, steadily piling up points. Scoring: 100-91, 100-90, and 99-92, all for the taller Ioka, 12-2-1 (7).

Veteran Hitoshi Taniuchi, 108, kayoed Yasuo Yamamoto, 108¾, at 2:27 of the fifth round in a scheduled eight.
Promoter: Hiroaki Tsuda's Green Tsuda Promotions
(1-29-90)

TOKYO—Kuramae Sumo Arena—Six Russian boxers made fine pro debuts. They were scouted by professional wrestler Antonio Inoki, and now belong to Kyoei Promotions.

Heavyweight **Viatcheslav Iakokvlev**, 6'5" 220½, easily halted awkward **Todd Cooks**, 225, at 1:56 of the second round. Iakokvlev, 29, had won the World Cup championship in 1985, and compiled an amateur record of 230-10.

Viatcheslav Ianovski, 140, gold medalist at the Seoul Olympics, proved too ringwise and strong for Filipino Amy Pacana, 140, finishing him with sharp combinations at 3:02 of the fourth round in a scheduled six. Ianovski, 32, is a bald-headed boxer who looks talented. His amateur log read 286-43.

Sabiev Ramzan, 207, needed just 68 seconds to polish off David Cole, 238½, in a scheduled six. Sabiev, 178-22 as an amateur, was the bronze medalist at the World Cup in 1987.

The most impressive fighter was junior bantamweight Arbachakov Yury, 114, who outboxed Filipino Alan Escalante Tanaka, 117, decking him twice prior to the loser's corner tossing in the towel at 2:50 of the third session. Yury, a talented boxer-puncher, was 165-21 as an amateur. In 1989, the 23-year-old Yury, who looks Oriental, won gold medals in the Soviet championships, European games, and the World Cup at flyweight. If Yury learns how to box professionally, he will zoom up as a world contender.

Russian southpaw Nazarov "Gussie" Olzubek, 136, floored Makoto Nishizawa, 136, thrice and scored an automatic knockout at 2:25 of the first round, scheduled for six. Olzubek, a fast boxer, displayed his fine defense and offense in toppling the Japanese puncher. The Soviet southpaw had been European champion in 1987, registering an amateur record of 153-12.

Cruiserweight Lusran Taramov, 190, scored a one-punch kayo over Johnny Feemster, 191, United States, at 28 seconds of the first session of a scheduled six. Taramov's one-two was a haymaker. He was the Russian champion in 1985, 1986, and 1988.

Promoter: Kyoei Promotions
(2-1-90)

TOKYO—Korakeun Hall—Japanese junior flyweight titlist southpaw **Kimio Hirano**, 108, 8-3-3 (1), barely kept his crown with a 10-round split draw with **Katsumi Komiyama**, 107¼, 14-3-6 (3), a more experienced puncher ranked eighth by the WBC. The scoring was 97-96 for Komiyama, 98-98, and 98-97 for Hirano.

Former Japanese middleweight champion Takeshi Yamoto, 160, 8-4-2 (4), kept jabbing and moving, and earned a unanimous 10-round decision over Yoshinori Nishizawa, 6-2-1- (4). The six-footer maintained his stick-and-move strategy, outmaneuvering his less experienced opponent.

Promoter: Watanabe Promotions
(2-6-90)

TOKYO—Korakeun Hall—**Koji Matsumoto** outhit the slower and less sophisticated **Masahiro Sugiyama**, the number six contender, winning a unanimous decision in 10 rounds.

Promotor: Yonekura Promotions
(2-7-90)

TOKYO—Taiwanese import **Rocky Lin** (whose real name is Ming Jie Lin), 105, exploded with a well-timed right uppercut, dropped **Yasuo Yogi**, 105, and produced two more knockdowns en route to a stoppage at 2:34 of the opening session in a scheduled 10-round eliminator to decide the new Japanese strawweight champion. Lin improved to 7-0 (2); Yogi fell to 10-4-2 (6).

In the semifinal, Shinichiro Hiraiwa, the JBC's top bantamweight contender, flattened Takashi Nakayama, 117, 30 seconds into the 10th and final session. Hiraiwa is 12-4 (5); Nakayama fell to 9-2-1 (5).

Ryuji Okawa, 126, stopped Takanori Takakura, 126, at 1:59 of the first session in a scheduled eight. Okawa is 9-5-2 (5); Takakura dropped to 3-1 (0).
(2-9-90)

TOKYO—Tokyo Dome—On the undercard of the Douglas-Tyson heavyweight title bout, **Naoto Takahashi**, one of the best prospects in Japan and the WBA's number three junior featherweight contender, 123, lost a lopsided 10-round upset decision to Thai champion **Noree Jockgym**, 123. Though the fight became onesided, it was allowed to continue because Takahashi had a reputation for scoring kayos (over Mark Brooks Horikoshi and Jockygym). Takahashi attempted to fight back, but he was almost toppled and took another standing eight-count in the 10th.

Scoring: 99-89, 100-89, and 100-90, all for Jockgym, 28-8-1 (11). Takahashi fell to 18-3 (13).

Sensational bantamweight Joichiro Tatsuyoshi, 118¾, Osaka, 2-1 (2), came off the canvas in the first round and scored a one-punch kayo over ex-Thai champion Chucherd Eausampan, 117¾, with a wicked left uppercut to the stomach at 2:18 of the second round in a scheduled 10. Easuampan, who surprisingly floored Tatsuyoshi with a left hook in the opening canto, fell to 8-5 (5).

Unbeaten Venezuelan Eloy Rojas, 126¼, made his first trip to Japan an impressive one, as he had former Thai champion Jimmy Sithfaidang, 126, on the deck in the second session, and finished him with a well-timed left hook at 1:28 of the fourth round of a scheduled six. Rojas, the WBA's number three contender, boosted to 17-0 (16). Sithfaidang fell to 35-16 (10).

In a 10-round junior middleweight bout, Japanese champion Hitoshi Kamiyama, 151¼, looked slow and sluggish against puzzling lefty challenger Fumihiko Kimura's awkward but aggressive attacks. Kamiyama, 14-1-1 (7), was lucky to receive a split decision. Scoring: 98-97 for Kamiyama, and 98-97 and 97-96 for Kimura, 4-1, (2).

Promoter: Akihiko Honda's Teiken Promotions
(2-11-90)

TOKYO—Korakuen Hall—National middleweight champion **Takehito Saijo**, 158¾, Osaka, survived the jabs and one-two combinations of tall challenger **Hidenobu Sasaki**, 160, and came back to score a kayo at 1:43 of the sixth session in a scheduled 10-rounder. It was the 22-year-old's first defense since he acquired the vacant crown by beating Satoshi Yokozaki on points in November. Saijo, 11-3-1 (3), covered up with his tight guard, and then turned loose in the fifth, dropping his foe with a barrage of punches. Saijo decked the 27-year-old Sasaki, 9-8 (6), three more times in the sixth for an automatic TKO. Referee: Kodai Kumazaki.

A riot almost occurred as Eiji Kikuzaki, 143, was awarded a split decision over Douglas Ryuma, 141¾, over 10 close rounds. More than a few backers of Douglas' backers became furious and threw beer bottles into the ring. Keiichi Ishikawa, the manager and promoter for Douglas, stood on the ring apron and spoke to the crowd in an effort to cease their anger. Then the near-riot was stopped.

The taller Ryuma, a jabber, had a good start, winning the first two rounds. But the more powerful Kikuzaki dominated the next three sessions with his awkward but solid attacks. In the second half, it became a see-saw battle. Kikuzaki is 17-4-4 (14); Douglas fell to 11-4 (5).

Promoter: Ishikawa Promotions
(2-12-90)

TOKYO—Korakuen Hall—**Shigeru Okabe**, 117½, won the national bantamweight crown by a hairline decision over defending champion **Crusher Miura**, 118. It was a dull affair, although the crowd cheered both boxers.

Imported Venezuelan David Griman Mendez, 115¼, beat up another import, Ghanian Ebo Danquah, 115¼, and scored a reasonable stoppage at 2:34 of the eighth round in a scheduled 10.

Kazuhiro Shimamoto, 118, scored a TKO over **Sang Won Lee**, South Korea, 118, at 1:03 of the fourth round. Shimamoto, 11-0 (4), a former national high school champion, has been given easy opponents by manager Akihiko Honda, and has not been tested yet. Lee is 1-3 in fights on Japanese soil.

Promoter: Kokusai Promotions
(2-17-90)

TOKYO—Korakuen Hall—**Manabu Saijo**, 121½, became the new Japanese junior featherweight champion, as he registered an impressive knockout over **Susumu Toyosato**, the JBC's top contender, at 2:07 of the ninth round in a scheduled 10-round eliminator. Saijo exploded with a solid and well-timed southpaw right hook, which sank Toyosato for the count. Saijo is 11-1 (9); Toyosato fell to 9-1 (7).

The semi-final saw Kazuo Terasawa (aka Eun Shik Kim, former OPBF junior welterweight champion from Korea), 141¼, send Masato Takada, 141¼, sprawling to the deck twice in the second and twice more in the fourth round, and scoring a TKO at 2:04 of the fourth session. Terasawa is 20-2 (17); Takada fell to 6-5-3 (2).

Armando Chiba Tenoria, 112, Philippines, faced another Filipino lefty, Onglao Diego, 113, and demolished him at 2:27 of the seventh round.
Promoter: Kyoei Promotions
(2-19-90)

NAGOYA—Nagoya Public Hall—Mexican import **Dony "Escamilla" Mizoguchi**, 138¼, won a unanimous 10-round decision over **Masahide Ikehara**, 136¾, by scores of 99-97, 100-94, and 100-95. The Mexican is 10-5 (8); the loser fell to 12-12-1 (6).

Hisashi Terachi, 159, remained unbeaten by uti-

lizing his height and reach and whipping Eiju Otake, 159½, who retired at the end of the fifth round.

Terachi improved to 4-0 (3). Otake fell to 7-10 (3).
Promoter: Chunichi Promotions
(2-24-90)

OSAKA—Osaka Korean Arena—**Hiroshi Kuwata**, 136¾, pounded out a onesided 10-round decision over Korean **Sung Ho Shin**, 136¾. Kuwata banged on Shin, but the Korean refused to go down. Kuwata is 4-0 (3).

Yoshikazu Tamasaki, 122, floored Tamotsu Hattori, 123, thrice and stopped him at 2:30 of the fourth session.

Toshihiko Tsujino, 111¼, outpointed Rusher Kubo, 112, over eight rounds.
Promoter: Shinko Promotions
(2-24-90)

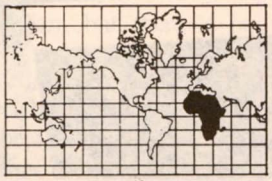
AMAGASAKI—Tsukashin Tent In—**Masatoshi Kobayashi**, 105, sent **Tsutomu Kamiyama**, 105, to the deck with a thud, and the referee halted the fight without taking a count at 28 seconds of the third session in a scheduled six. Kobayashi is 6-4 (2).
(2-25-90)

NAGOYA—Tusyuhashi Sports Center—**Kiyoshi Hatanaka**, 120, proved too sharp and strong for **San Northorchor**, Thailand, 120, sending him to the deck thrice en route to a fine kayo at 2:57 of the second session in a scheduled 10. Hatanaka is 19-1-1 (13).

Fast-rising bantamweight Yasuei Yakushiji, 119¾, dominated all rounds before finally catching Thai Somboonyod Singsamang, 120, at 2:42 of the ninth session in a scheduled 10. But the veteran Thai, 32-11-3 (27), weathered the storm and fought back with roundhouse swings to the midsection. In the ninth, Yakushiji, a very tall Japanese, pinned his foe to the corner and battered him with a barrage of punches to the face. Singsamang fell and was unable to beat the count. The 21-year-old local favorite is 8-2 (6).

Promoter: Matsuda Promotions
(3-4-90)

Joe Koizumi



AFRICA

NIGERIA

LAGOS—Sports Hall National Stadium—How the mighty have fallen! Until that fateful moment when he lost against WBA light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill, **Joe Lasisi**, Nigeria's glittering aspirant for global honors, was not only a national hero but a figure of reverence among the nation's pugilists.

Following the seventh-round disaster against Hill, Lasisi sought solace in his homestead. But **Hunter Clay**, the African Boxing Confederation middleweight king, and a confirmed braggart, indicated his willingness to challenge Lasisi for the latter's ABC light heavyweight crown. The nation was aghast! Lasisi, dreaded even by the country's heavyweights, was being publicly challenged by an above-average middleweight!

Undaunted by those who said he was biting off more than he could possibly chew, Clay persisted, vowing to fight Lasisi for free. Finally, he succeeded in convincing promoter Austin Osaile, and in a much-publicized press conference, he signed a contract to take on Lasisi in November.

But when both pugilists appeared at the weigh-in on December 22, they were destined for different adversaries. The ABC, in the interim, mandated an elimination match between Clay and journeyman Ghanaian Joe Allotey, listed number one in the 175-pound class.

The main event was just one of the factors that made this a disappointing card. On an occasion that would have helped Lasisi in redeeming some of the prestige lost in the farce against Virgil Hill, the African chieftain failed woefully to exploit the opportunity.

Patrick Dovon, touted as a leading boxer of France, did not throw a single punch during the five minutes he spent in the roped square. Lasisi should have put him away in the first round instead of participating in tomfoolery until the second minute of the second stanza, when the invader fell after barely being touched. Was Dovon really a boxer or just another hoax?

Christopher Ossai, national lightweight titlist, tangled with welterweight Femi Jacobs in a catchweight challenge. Bereft of any serious rivalry in his class, Ossai showed no fear against his heavier opponent. But a thunderous left hook felled him in the second stanza. He barely beat referee Florunso Jacobs' count. He remained standing until the end of the 10th round, and although he lost via unanimous decision, he was applauded for his bravery, excellent combinations, and impressive footwork.

A slight commotion ensued at the commencement of the second bout, when the belligerent Clay was physically prevented by policemen from entering the ring. The promoter, Frank Ogunniya, explained to the audience that a court injunction had been served on Clay. It transpired that Osaile, for whom the boxer had previously signed, insisted on the contract and had succeeded only that morning in procuring the court injunction.

Ganiyu Giwa and Kola Thompson mounted the ring for a repeat of their national junior welterweight clash. While dethroning Thompson, the new champion had succeeded in hospitalizing the former king.

Giwa, barrel-chested and flaunting a sledgehammer right and a rock-like jaw, was heavily favored to retain the title against the stylish challenger. The bout proved anticlimactic, as Thompson threw in the towel in the third round, though he had not received any discernible punishment.

The last bout proved a show-saver. Contesting the vacant bantamweight throne, Arisi Egbewunmi, the Beninois baron with the alluring sobriquet of "Soweto," demonstrated why he is so highly rated in the continent. His adversary, Victor Enyika, 5-0, the undisputed stallion in the Saapros stable, coveted the crown as a launching pad to his scheduled pro stint in America. In Soweto, he encountered an elusive, rugged, and intimidating foe in the 12-round encounter.

Having spent two years campaigning in Nigeria in the mid-'80s, Soweto must have mastered the secret of the country's boxing style. He bobbed, weaved, taunted, and tormented Enyika. Indeed, in the very first minute he drew first blood, opening a cut on the forehead of the home lad. After the panic-stricken Nigerian corner attempted to stop the blood flow, Soweto continued to pile up points, jabbing and back-pedalling neatly from the desperate lunges of his foe.

The situation remained until 1:25 into the penultimate round. At that point, a miraculous left cross caught a retreating Soweto on the jaw. He landed badly and could only stare incredulously at referee Magnus Armah, who counted him out.

The arena erupted. Victory had been snatched at the brink of imminent defeat.

"I was unfortunate to have fallen so badly. I hit the canvas with the back of my head, otherwise I wasn't really hurt by the punch. Anyway, that is boxing, and I am not ashamed of my performance at all," Soweto said.

Attendance: 2,000 (estimated)
Promoter: Franklin Shield Promotions
Referee: Magnus Armah
(12-22-89)

Tunde Ogunnoiki

SOUTH AFRICA

MDANTSANE—Dukashe Stadium—**Mthobeli Mhlophe**, the former national featherweight champion, suffered a quick defeat when he was stopped in one round by **November Ntshingila**.

Attendance: 1,000 (estimated)
(12-17-89)

JOHANNESBURG—Portugese Hall—World-rated junior lightweight **Dingaan Thobela**, 20-0-1, came from behind to score a sensational 10th-round TKO over awkward Colombian southpaw **Felipe Orosco**.

Attendance: 5,000 (estimated)
(1-22-90)

DURBAN—First National Bank Arena—Super middleweight **Sugarboy Malinga** scored a unanimous 10-round points win over **Tony Morrison**, United States.

Attendance: 3,000 (estimated)
(1-29-90)

Ron Jackson

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NUNN

(Continued from page 38)

help matters when he dropped his gloves and made faces at Starling, digging at the smaller champion, "Can't you punch any harder?"

Nunn arrived at the postfight press conference wearing a green T-shirt and slacks, with the bill of his white baseball cap turned up like that of an English steeplechase jockey. He appeared pleased but not effervescent.

"It's great to have it done with," he said. "I thought I fought a good fight. It took me a couple of rounds to get moving. I used my height and reach [as] an advantage. Marlon Starling came to win, and he's a true champion. Starling is a better defensive fighter than I thought. I had to pick my shots. You can't knock out everybody."

"Mike was a little looser than I was, so I take my hat off to him, but no man is happy with a loss," reflected Starling. "Mike stole the middle rounds, but I'd be a little busier if we fought again. I know that Nunn knows he was in a good fight."

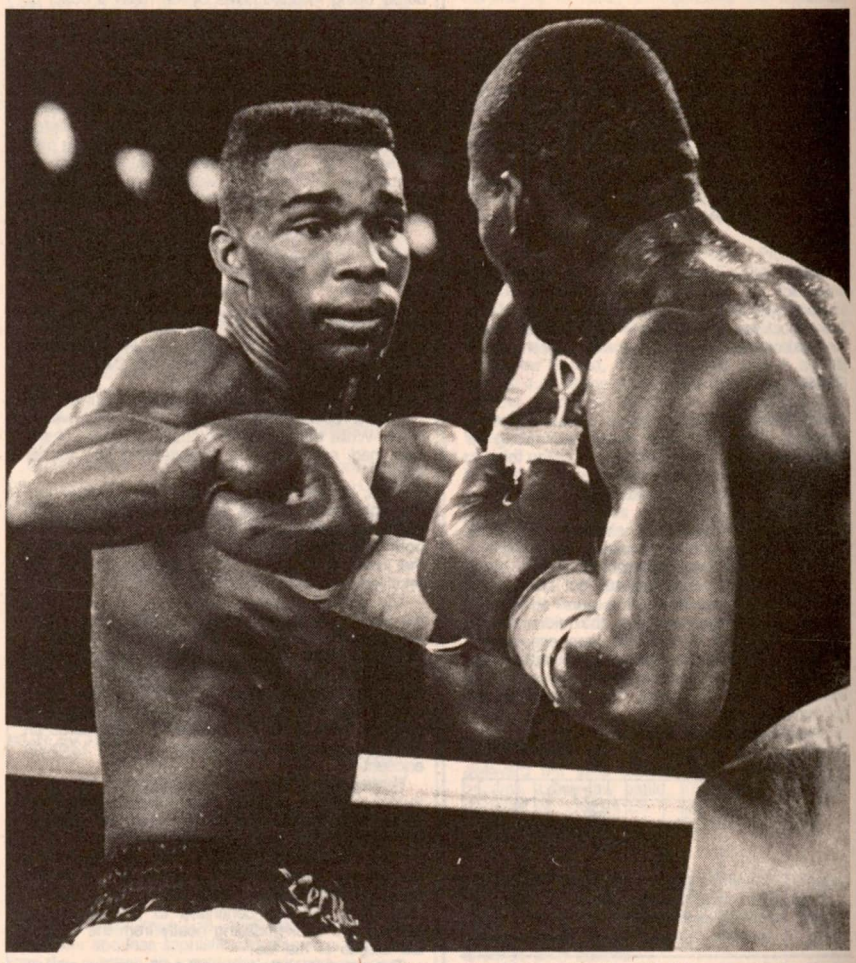
Good fight or not, Nunn enjoyed a good payday. He collected $1.1-million from Mirage owner Steve Wynn. It may not be long enough for the public to forget Nunn's latest cautious caper, but the IBF champion's next outing at The Mirage is tentatively scheduled for July 17, when he makes a mandatory defense against Donald Curry.

Starling, 158, fighting for the first time as a middleweight, received $675,000. Predictably, he plans to return to welterweight, and Mort Sharnik, his adviser, says the 147-pounder had been guaranteed $1-million—win or lose against Nunn—to fight Julio Cesar Chavez or Hector Camacho. Another possibility is a 147-pound unification match against IBF champion Simon Brown, whom Starling outpointed in 1985.

Meanwhile, Nunn continues to be an elusive star.

"I knew Joe being in the ring with Michael would help against Starling," said Dan Goossen, who would like to resume his relationship with the fighter. "But I can't babysit with Michael. I can't pick his friends for him. The women, booze, and drugs are out there. He knows they are out there. Michael Nunn also knows his responsibilities being a world champion.

"When our current contract expires, the proposed new agreement will give 80 percent to Nunn and 20 percent to the Goossens. I didn't want to do it at first, but we wanted to keep the operation together. Our expenses run around $300,000 a year. That includes the office and gym maintenance. Everything was geared to Michael Nunn 24 hours a day."



Nunn searches for openings, but Starling offered few. After outpointing Iran Barkley and Starling, Nunn has reacquired his reputation as a dull fighter. Was Nunn's March 1989 knockout of Sumbu Kalambay an aberration? Or does he remain a dangerous middleweight who prefers a defensive approach?

Among boxing observers, it is almost unanimous that Nunn, the explosive fighter who kayoed Frank Tate with a body shot to win the IBF title in July 1988, is regressing in the ring, perhaps more swiftly than his closest connections wish to concede.

If the Goossens are guilty of any managing misstep, it's beating the drum that they were guiding a superstar kayo artist. Nunn finished Juan Roldan in eight rounds in November 1988, but the hype really soared when a perfect left hook iced Sumbu Kalambay in the first round in March 1989.

Nunn, however, left an indelible impression that he didn't relish a streetfight when he met swarming, brawling Iran Barkley last August. After seven positive rounds, Nunn began to retreat and hung around to earn a close and grossly unpopular decision.

For the Barkley fight, promoter Bob Arum paid Nunn $1-million for what he considered a five-and-dime store performance. Then he immediately dissolved their association.

If Nunn is thin-skinned in some areas, he has elephant hide when it comes to the public's reaction to his recent efforts.

"I have no control over booing because I can't fight for the fans," he says defensively. "And besides, they ain't taking no punches."

But they are paying his purses. And unless Nunn wants to get an image as a gambler, he had better pay heed to that fact. ■

Jack Welsh is The Ring's correspondent in Las Vegas.

BOBBY WATTS
(Trainer)

By Robert Cassidy

There are no telling marks on Bobby Watts' face. Any scars that were amassed during his career have faded with time. His nose is slightly flat, but not enough to reveal his past. And his melancholy brown eyes and warm smile suggest anything but a boxer and his violent life.

He is still lean, but there is no other physical evidence to suggest that he was one of Philadelphia's top middleweights of the '70s. And in the '70s, being a top Philly middleweight meant that Bobby "Boogaloo" Watts was among the best in the world.

During his misguided career, Watts lacked the one break needed to launch him into stardom. Watts was much more than a clubfighter. He was a contender and an attraction in Philly. Although he never earned a title shot, he was a fixture in the ratings.

"My career wasn't exactly what I expected it to be," said Watts, 42. "I got some bad breaks. I fought a lot of guys, but I never got *the* break."

Watts established himself in 1971 by beating fringe contender Luis Vinales, who had decisioned Philly favorite Bennie Briscoe a year earlier. And in a three-fight series in '71 and '72 with top-ranked junior middleweight Ralph Palladin, Watts came away with two wins and a draw.

In 1973, Watts began an unbeaten streak that spanned almost five years and included victories over Eugene "Cyclone" Hart, Willie "The Worm" Monroe, and a future middleweight champion named Marvin Hagler.

"I used my reach and moved side to side," Watts said of his 1976 decision over Hagler. "He was a little anxious then. I could see his right hook coming from a mile away. But I knew he would be around for a while."

Hagler, of course, stayed around long enough to beat virtually every top middleweight in the world, including Watts, whom he stopped in two rounds in their 1980 rematch. Watts, who was 32 at the time, took the fight on one week's notice.

"Technically, Bobby was as good a middleweight as there was," said Russell Peltz, the Philadelphia promoter who made many of Watts' fights. "He had all the moves. He was quick and had some snap on his punches."

Watts rose to prominence after decisioning Monroe to win Peltz' loosely structured Philadelphia middleweight tournament in 1974. Among the entrants were Hart, "Kitten" Hayward, and Billy "Dynamite" Douglas.

"It was like fighting for who was gonna control the city," remembered Watts. "By having so many middleweights there—and one of us wanted to be the best—it was like fighting for a world title. I don't care how good a record anybody had. After they came through Philly, there was gonna be a blemish on their record."

In the '60s, Hayward, Briscoe, Joe Frazier, George Benton, and "Gypsy" Joe Harris set the standard upon which Philadelphia's boxing tradition was founded. And at the 23rd PAL gym, those standards were painfully passed on to Watts.

Perhaps more fabled than the cocked-at-the-hip Philly left hook are the city's gym wars. Whoever named Philadelphia "The City of Brotherly Love" never imagined there would be a place like the 23rd PAL gym.

"In a lot of gyms in Philly, sparring is just like having a fight," Watts said. "I don't know the reason why. But you just have to do something to make them respect you."

Having retired in 1983, Watts is removed from the wars that earned him respect throughout Philadelphia and the boxing world. But he remains close to boxing, training fighters at Augie's gym in South Philadelphia. He also works as a longshoreman.

"I've never left the gym," Watts said. "The day after I retired I was back in the gym helping the kids."

Helping them, no doubt, develop the techniques he mastered and, at the same time, upholding the traditions that once made Philadelphia the toughest fight town of them all. ■

WBC WBA IBF RATINGS

HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
James Douglas (USA)	C	C	C
Evander Holyfield (USA)	1	1	1
Mike Tyson (USA)	2	2	2
Razor Ruddock (CAN)	3	3	3
Michael Dokes (USA)	4	4	7
Gary Mason (GB)	5	6	6
Alex Stewart (JAM)	6	5	5
Tim Witherspoon (USA)	7	-	9
Renaldo Snipes (USA)	8	8	8
Adilson Rodrigues (BRA)	9	11	-
George Foreman (USA)	10	-	-
Jose Ribalta (USA)	11	7	-
Carl Williams (USA)	12	10	4
Orlin Norris (USA)	28	9	-
Greg Page (USA)	13	-	10

CRUISERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Carlos DeLeon (PR)	C	-	-
Anaclet Wamba (FRA)	1	2	2
Nate Miller (USA)	2	3	4
Dwight Muhammad Qawi (USA)	3	6	-
Angelo Rottoli (ITA)	4	11	-
Jose Flores (URU)	5	7	-
Derek Angol (GB)	6	8	-
Johnny Nelson (GB)	7	-	-
Magna Havnaa (NOR)	8	-	-
Olian Alexander (USA)	9	10	-
Anthony Witherspoon (USA)	10	-	-
James Warring (USA)	12	5	10
Richard Mason (USA)	14	-	6
Robert Daniels (USA)	-	C	-
Glenn McCrory (GB)	24	-	3
Jeff Lampkin (USA)	-	4	C
Craig Bodzianowski (USA)	-	9	-
Leroy Murphy (USA)	-	-	5
Taoufik Belbouli (FRA)	-	1	-
Siza Makathini (SA)	-	-	1
James Pritchard (USA)	-	-	8
Iby Zimmerman (CAU)	-	-	7
Bash Ali (USA)	-	-	9

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Harding (AUSTRL)	C	-	-
Dennis Andries (GB)	1	1	9
Don Lalonde (CAN)	2	-	-
Guy Waters (AUSTRL)	3	3	2
Joe Lasisi (NIG)	4	12	12
Leslie Stewart (TRI)	5	-	-
Eric Nicoletta (FRA)	6	2	8
Mario Melo (ARG)	7	6	10
Yawe Davis (UGA)	8	-	-
Tom Collins (GB)	9	-	-
Mwehu Beya (ITA)	10	8	-
Virgil Hill (USA)	-	C	-
Mike Peak (USA)	-	4	-
Graciano Rocchigiani (GER)	-	5	-
Rod Carr (AUSTRL)	-	7	-
Nestor Giovannini (ARG)	-	9	-
Jean-Marie Emebe (FRA)	-	10	-
Charles Williams (USA)	-	-	C
Rodrigo Benech (URU)	24	-	1
James Kinchen (USA)	11	-	3
Freddie Delgado (PR)	22	-	4
Anthony Hembrick (USA)	25	-	5
Andrew Maynard (USA)	-	-	6
Frankie Swindell (USA)	-	-	7

SUPER MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Ray Leonard (USA)	C	-	-
Chris Tiozzo (FRA)	1	1	3
Dario Matteoni (ARG)	2	5	-
Tony Byrd (USA)	3	4	6
Don Lee (USA)	4	9	-
Frank Winterstein (FRA)	5	-	-
Mauro Galvano (ITA)	6	-	12
Paul Muyodi (UGA)	7	-	-
Rod Carr (AUSTRL)	8	-	5
Juan Carlos Gimenez (PAR)	9	3	4
Frank Tate (USA)	10	-	1
In Chul Baek (KOR)	-	C	-
Ron Essett (USA)	11	8	8
Victor Cordova (PAN)	16	2	9
Paul Whittaker (USA)	17	6	11
Dan Morgan (USA)	19	7	-
Tyrone Frazier (USA)	22	10	-
Lindell Holmes (USA)	-	-	C
Thulani Malinga (USA)	-	-	2
John Jarvis (USA)	-	-	7
Dave Tiberi (USA)	-	-	10

MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Lindell Holmes (USA)	1	-	-
Roberto Duran (PAN)	2	-	-
Julian Jackson (USA)	3	-	-
Michael Watson (GB)	4	1	1
Herol Graham (GB)	5	3	5
Sumbu Kalambay (ITA)	6	2	8
Michael Olajide (CAN)	7	-	-
Nigel Benn (GB)	8	4	3
Kevin Watts (US)	9	11	-
Iran Barkley (USA)	10	8	6
Mike McCallum (JAM)	-	C	-
Steve Collins (USA)	11	9	-
Chris Eubank (GB)	-	6	-
Frank Winterstein	-	5	10
Michael Nunn (USA)	-	-	C
Ron Collins (USA)	17	-	9
Matthew Hilton (CAN)	23	-	7
Donald Curry (USA)	-	-	2
Adolfo Caballero (COL)	27	10	-
Reginald Johnson (USA)	29	7	4

JUNIOR MIDDLEWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
John Mugabi (UGA)	C	-	-
Rene Jacquot (FRA)	1	7	-
Chris Pyatt (GB)	2	5	6
Julio Cesar Vasquez (ARG)	3	3	-
Darrin Van Horn (USA)	4	8	1
Terry Norris (USA)	5	6	-
Troy Waters (AUSTRL)	6	-	5
Carlos Elliot (JAP)	7	1	-
Jorge Castro (ARG)	8	9	10
Jun Suk Hwang (KOR)	9	2	-
Gilbert Dele (FRA)	10	4	7
Julian Jackson (VI)	-	C	-
Gianfranco Rosi (ITA)	-	-	C
Horacio Perez (COL)	18	10	-
Glenn Wolfe (USA)	19	-	2
Robert Hines (USA)	-	-	3
Arthur Serwano (USA)	13	-	4
Karama Leota (USA)	-	-	8
Miguel Arroyo (ARG)	27	-	9

WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Marlon Starling (USA)	C	-	-
Maurice Blocker (USA)	1	2	-
Buddy McGirt (USA)	2	5	1
Aaron Davis (USA)	3	7	2
Tyrone Trice (USA)	4	-	3
Antoine Fernandez (FRA)	5	10	5
Glenwood Brown (USA)	6	4	4
Jose Bermudez (COL)	7	9	-
Hiroyuki Yoshino (JAP)	8	12	8
Genaro Leon (MEX)	9	-	-
Jorge Bracamonte (ARG)	10	-	-
Luis Garcia (VEN)	11	1	7
Mark Breland (USA)	-	C	-
Simon Brown (USA)	-	-	C
Fujio Ozaki (JAP)	-	6	-
Engels Pedroza (VEN)	12	3	6
Lloyd Honeyghan (GB)	-	8	-
Kevin Pompey (USA)	-	-	9
Victor Davis (USA)	-	-	10

JUNIOR WELTERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Julio Cesar Chavez (MEX)	C	-	C
Kyung Duk Ahn (KOR)	1	1	-
Meldrick Taylor (USA)	2	-	1
Roger Mayweather (USA)	3	-	7
Sammy Fuentes (PR)	4	-	-
Loreto Garza (USA)	5	5	3
Angel Hernandez (PR)	6	7	11
Mauricio Rodriguez (USA)	7	-	12
Alberto Cortes (ARG)	8	-	-
Terrence Alli (GUY)	9	-	5
Efren Calamati (ITA)	10	8	-
Juan M. Coggi (ARG)	-	C	-
Akinobu Hiranaka (JAP)	14	2	-
Jose Luis Ramirez (MEX)	18	3	-
Rafael Pineda (COL)	11	4	4
Rodolfo Aguilar (PAN)	13	6	-
Santos Cardona (USA)	-	9	8
Chi Mun Sil (KOR)	-	10	-
Louie Lomeli (USA)	-	-	2
Harold Brazier (USA)	15	-	6
Ras-I-Bramble (USA)	19	-	9
Courtney Hooper (USA)	-	-	10

LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Pernell Whitaker (USA)	C	-	C
Chil Sung Chun (KOR)	1	5	-
Poli Diaz (SPA)	2	4	3
Tracy Spann (USA)	3	7	1
Primo Ramos (MEX)	4	3	4
Darryl Tyson (USA)	5	-	5
David Gonzales (USA)	6	6	9
Iwao Otomo (JAP)	7	9	8
Anthony Jones (USA)	8	8	-
Mario Martinez (MEX)	9	-	-
Freddie Pendleton (USA)	10	-	2
Edwin Rosario (PR)	-	C	11
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	-	1	-
Juan Nazario (PR)	13	2	-
Tae Jin Moon (KOR)	14	10	-
Greg Haugen (USA)	11	-	6
William Rojas (VEN)	-	11	7
John Duplessis (USA)	18	-	10

JUNIOR LIGHTWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Azumah Nelson (GHA)	C	-	-
Antonio Esparragoza (VEN)	1	-	-
Jim McDonnell (GB)	2	7	-
Tyrone Downes (TRIN)	3	4	-
Genaro Hernandez (US)	4	3	4
Juan LaPorte (PR)	5	-	-
Bernard Taylor (USA)	6	-	5
George Navarro (USA)	7	-	-
Tony Lopez (USA)	8	8	2
Mauro Gutierrez (MEX)	9	-	-
Rodolfo Gomez (MEX)	10	-	-
Lupe Suarez (USA)	13	-	9
Brian Mitchell (SA)	-	C	-
John Molina (USA)	-	-	C
Jackie Beard (USA)	-	1	-
Renaldo Carter (USA)	-	2	10
Anibal Nieves (VEN)	-	5	-
John Doherty (IRE)	-	6	-
Hengky Gun (INDO)	17	9	-
Jorge Ramirez (MEX)	24	-	1
Renato Cornett (AUSTR)	18	-	3
Calvin Grove (USA)	28	11	6
Joey Gamache (USA))	20	10	7
Frank Mitchell (USA)	15	-	8

FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Jeff Fenech (AUSTRL)	C	-	-
Marcos Villasana (MEX)	1	-	-
Paul Hodkinson (GB)	2	3	1
Ricardo Cepeda (USA)	3	8	4
Chan Mok Park (KOR)	4	1	-
Javier Marquez (MEX)	5	-	-
Rafael Zuniga (COL)	6	6	9
Yung Kyun Park (KOR)	7	9	-
Takeyuki Akagi (JAP)	8	-	-
Wilson Palacios (COL)	9	11	-
Victor Callejas (PR)	10	-	-
Antonio Esparragoza (VEN)	-	C	-
Jorge Paez (MEX)	-	-	C
Eloy Rojas (VEN)	24	2	-
Tom Johnson (USA)	18	4	12
Ryutaro Ueda (JAP)	-	5	-
Jorge Romero (MEX)	22	7	-
Edward Parker (USA)	-	10	-
Myron Taylor (USA)	14	-	2

WBC as of March
WBA as of February
IBF as of April

Troy Dorsey (USA)	27	-	3
Alfred Rangel (USA)	21	-	5
Lupe Gutierrez (USA)	19	12	6
Harold Rhodes (USA)	13	-	7
Steve McCrory (USA)	-	-	8
Cedric Mingo (USA)	-	-	10

JUNIOR FEATHERWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Daniel Zaragoza (MEX)	C	-	-
Seung Hoon Lee (KOR)	1	3	-
Pedro Decima (ARG)	2	4	-
Paul Banke (USA)	3	7	-
Chan Young Park (KOR)	4	-	-
Tracy Patterson (USA)	5	-	8
Jesse Benavides (USA)	6	-	5
Noree Jockygym (THAI)	7	8	-
Luis Mendoza (COL)	8	1	-
Juan Jose Estrada (MEX)	9	5	9
Jae Won Choi (KOR)	10	10	-
Jesus Salud (USA)	-	C	-
Ruben Palacios (COL)	14	2	-
Carlos Uribe (CHIL)	13	6	-
Lee Ki Yun (KOR)	20	9	-
Welcome Ncita (SA)	-	-	C
Jose Sanabria (VEN)	23	-	1
Hurley Snead (USA)	-	-	2
Fabrice Benichou (FRA)	-	-	3
Kelvin Seabrooks (USA)	-	-	4
Baby Rojas (USA)	-	-	6
Fransie Badenhorst (SA)	-	-	7
Ramon Cruz (PR)	-	-	10

BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Raul Perez (MEX)	C	-	-
Hurley Snead (USA)	1	1	-
Chang Kyun Oh (KOR)	2	2	-
Gerardo Martinez (USA)	3	7	6
Pepillo Valdez (MEX)	4	5	2
Changuito Carmona (MEX)	5	-	-
Kiyoshi Hatanaka (JAP)	6	6	8
Lupe Rubio (MEX)	7	-	-
Yong Hoon Lee (KOR)	8	9	-
Eun Sik Lee (KOR)	9	-	-
Greg Richardson (USA)	10	10	5
Luisito Espinosa (PHI)	-	C	-
Orlando Canizales (USA)	-	-	C
Cesar Salas (VEN)	-	3	-
Kaokor Galaxy (THAI)	23	4	-
Paul Gonzalez (USA)	20	8	-
Billy Hardy (GB)	-	-	1
Duke McKenzie (GB)	16	-	3
Eddie Rangel (USA)	-	-	4
Wilfredo Vasquez (PR)	-	-	7
Ray Minus (BAH)	13	-	9
Alessandro DeSantis (ITA)	-	-	10

JUNIOR BANTAMWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Sung Kil Moon (KOR)	C	-	-
Nana Konadu (GHA)	1	-	12
Thanomsak Sithbaobey (THAI)	2	1	-
Shunichi Nakajima (JAP)	3	2	11
Gilberto Roman (MEX)	4	4	4
Elvis Alvarez (COL)	5	-	-
Ellyas Pical (INDO)	6	-	-
Cesar Polanco (DR)	7	9	-
Carlos Mercado (COL)	8	11	2
Robert Quiroga (USA)	9	-	1
Santos Laciar (ARG)	10	-	-
Khaosai Galaxy (THAI)	-	C	-
Juan Polo (COL)	-	-	C
Ernesto Ford (PAN)	21	3	-
Rey Paciones (PHI)	-	5	3
Kenji Matsumura (JAP)	-	6	-
Cobra Ari Blanca (PHIL)	19	7	7
David Griman (VEN)	11	8	-
Duke McKenzie (GB)	-	10	-
Sitoshi Shingaki (JAP)	-	-	5
Daorung Chuwatana (THAI)	-	-	6
Peter Mitrevski (AUSTRL)	-	-	8
Jaja Shibali (SA)	-	-	9
Sombat Uasampan (THAI)	-	-	10

FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Sot Chitalada (THAI)	C	-	-
Richard Clarke (JAM)	1	-	2
Jung Koo Chang (KOR)	2	-	-
Yong Kang Kim (KOR)	3	6	-
Javier Lucas (MEX)	4	-	6
Romy Navarette (PHIL)	5	12	10
Leopard Tamakuma (JAP)	6	1	4
Rodolfo Blanco (COL)	7	4	1
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	8	-	-
Isaias Zamudio (MEX)	9	-	-
Claudemir Dias (BRA)	10	-	-
Jesus Rojas (VEN)	11	C	-
Elvis Alvarez (COL)	-	2	-
Yul Woo Lee (KOR)	-	3	-
Kotaro Hayashi (JAP)	28	5	-
Carlos Salazar (ARG)	12	7	-
Eyup Can (TUR)	13	8	-
Julio Gudino (PAN)	-	9	-
Yunun Chin (KOR)	14	10	-
Dave McAuley (IRE)	-	-	C
Fidel Bassa (COL)	-	-	3
Dodi Penalosa (PHIL)	18	-	5
Joe Kelly (GB)	-	-	7
Ole Kietoneway (THAI)	-	-	8
Louis Curtis (USA)	-	-	9

LIGHT FLYWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Humberto Gonzalez (MEX)	C	-	-
Luis Monzote (CUBA)	1	8	-
Jeung Keun Lim (JAP)	2	3	-
Michael Carbajal (USA)	3	6	1
Rey Hernandez (MEX)	4	-	-
Leon Salazar (PAN)	5	4	6
Katzumi Komiyama (JAP)	6	-	-
Ali Galvez (CHI)	7	11	-
Hiroki Ioka (JAP)	8	-	-
Domingo Sosa (DR)	9	-	-
Ebo Danquah (GHA)	10	-	-
Yuh Myung Woo (KOR)	-	C	-
Leo Gamez (VEN)	17	1	8
Francisco Tejedor (COL)	-	2	-
Kajkong Danphoothai (THAI)	-	5	-
Kimio Hirano (JAP)	18	7	-
Jose Lagos (ARG)	-	9	-
Hector Patri (ARG)	-	10	-
Muangshai Kittikasem (THAI)	-	-	C
Silverio Barcenas (PAN)	-	-	2
Tacy Macalos (PHIL)	11	-	3
Gonzalo Villalobos (MEX)	-	-	4
Javier Diaz (MEX)	25	-	5
Abdi Pohan (IND)	12	12	7
Mario DeMarco (ARG)	-	-	9
Gerry Penalosa (PHIL)	-	-	10

STRAWWEIGHT	WBC	WBA	IBF
Hideyuki Ohashi (JAP)	C	-	12
Kyung Yung Lee (KOR)	1	-	-
Pretty Boy Lucas (PHIL)	2	3	1
Hector Patri (ARG)	3	-	-
Ricardo Lopez (MEX)	4	10	3
Chana Porpaoin (THAI)	5	2	10
Hiyong Choi (KOR)	6	1	-
Jeum Hwan Choi (KOR)	7	-	-
Santiago Mendez (MEX)	8	-	11
Javier Varguez (MEX)	9	-	-
Chairith Kongudom (THAI)	10	-	-
Bong Jun Kim (KOR)	-	C	-
Katsumi Komiyama (JAP)	-	4	-
Joo Sup Shin (KOR)	27	5	-
Danny Nunez (DR)	30	6	-
Samjoong Lee (KOR)	11	7	-
Silverio Barcenas (PAN)	13	8	-
Nico Thomas (INDO)	18	9	-
Far Lan Lookmingkwan (THAI)	-	-	C
Luis Monzote (USA)	-	-	2
Eric Chavez (PHIL)	25	-	4
Francisco Montiel (MEX)	-	-	5
Napa Kiatwanchai (THA)	-	-	6
Joe Constantino (RP)	-	-	7
Marcario Santos (MEX)	16	-	8
Rocky Lim (JAP)	-	-	9

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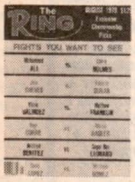

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THE RING CLASSIC

CUS D'AMATO: GENIUS OR ODDBALL?

From The Ring, March 1962

By Jimmy Breslin

Somebody had an extra newspaper, and Sugar Ray Robinson, sitting moodily in the tourist section of this jet that was taking him to New York, ran through the sports pages. One story was about the Floyd Patterson-Tom McNeeley travesty, and down on the bottom, the writer speculated on Patterson's next opponent. It would be, the story said, either Henry Cooper's brother or Pete Rademacher's father. Robinson read it, then folded the paper and shook his head.

"Cus Amato" he said, "man, he got to be the greatest fight manager. Look what he's done for his fighter. He gets him McNeeley. And he gets paid for it. Cus Amato got to be the greatest.

"Where did you get that one from?" somebody sitting with Robinson said with sarcasm.

"I don't have to get it from nowhere," Robinson said. "Common sense makes him the best. Look at the thing. I had to fight an Artie Levine and a Jake LaMotta and a Tommy Bell. Then they give me a Turpin and Joe Maxim."

He shook his head. "Look what Cus Amato gets for Patterson. He gets him Rademacher, Brian London, and that boy Roy Harris. And now McNeeley. A manager is supposed to protect his fighter. That's all Cus Amato is doing.

"Don't tell me about fight managers. He got to be the greatest. All I know is I had to fight guys that could kill you, and Patterson has to fight hardly nobody. And he gets paid money for it, too. I'm going to tell you something—I wish Cus Amato managed me."

This seemed to be, at first, as strange a theory as has been advanced in boxing for some time. For "Cus Amato," or, to give him his correct name, Constantine (Cus) D'Amato, has become a stereotyped villain in the game. He is, most everybody in boxing agrees, an oddball. They say he is also ruining the game.

Yet here was Sugar Ray Robinson telling you that as a fight manager, Cus makes them all look like amateurs!

But as the plane kept swooshing toward Idlewild Airport and Robinson kept talking, you began to think about it, and after a while there could be no possible room for disagreement.

Let the old-timers knock Cus. Let the sportswriters take him apart at every opportunity. Say what you want about him. But don't ever try to say Cus D'Amato is not the best fight manager of our time.

It was nearly 10 years ago, on September 12, 1952, that D'Amato, wearing those blue gym pants of his, put his foot on the rope of St. Nicholas Arena and kept it there until Patterson was through and into the ring for the first professional prizefight of his career. It was against one Eddie Godbold, and Patterson took him out in four.

Controversial manager Cus D'Amato with his heavyweight champion, Floyd Patterson. This photo was taken shortly after Patterson regained the crown by knocking out Ingemar Johansson. Writer Jimmy Breslin wondered whether D'Amato was an oddball or a genius. His conclusion: D'Amato was both.

Since then, Cus had managed to alienate almost every known person in boxing or around boxing, and at one time, back in June of 1960, he seemed to have lost touch with his fighter, too. He has been ridiculed. He has been brazen and weird. But his record is astounding.

There are two points, and only two points, on which the ability of a manager of fighters can be measured. The

important one is the condition of the fighter. After this, you see how much money the fighter has earned. Everything else, the newspaper headlines and the recognition and the excitement, none of it counts.

And on these two points, Cus D'Amato, fight manager, is untouchable. Floyd Patterson has two slight scars—over his right eye, if memory is correct—that came from a fight in 1953 with somebody like Westbury Bascom. Floyd had rubbed his face with cocoa butter for some time before the fight—somebody had told him it was good—and the grease-softened skin busted open when Bascom got going.

Otherwise, Floyd has about the same face today that he had before he was a fighter. He shows absolutely no wear and tear beyond this. He has a great pair of legs. His body is strong.

He ran into one terrible night, against Ingemar Johansson, in June 1959, but you can count the punches he was hit with in most of his other fights. Patterson comes with a chin that has to be weak. The notion here always has been that D'Amato, above everybody, knew of it. And he matched his fighter accordingly. All he was able to do with this cautious matching was to get his man to the heavyweight championship of the world!

D'Amato's managerial savvy was best illustrated by his handling of Patterson. (He also guided Jose Torres, who would eventually capture the light heavyweight title.) By matching the champion with challengers like Olympian Pete Rademacher and Tom McNeeley, he secured big purses with little risk.

As for the money . . . Well, on page 66 of Nat Fleischer's *Ring Record Book and Boxing Encyclopedia*, there is a table of Floyd Patterson's ring earnings. It begins with the Godbold bout. Patterson got $75 for the fight. It then goes on to show that Patterson received $250,000 for boxing Peter Rademacher at Sick's Stadium, Seattle. It shows Patterson earned $301,382.41 for taking on Roy Harris at Wrigley Field, Los Angeles. It shows he was paid $170,000 for a workout with Brian London in Indianapolis. And he took down something close to $300,000 for the McNeeley affair in Toronto.

This gives him a gross of more than $1-million for taking on four fighters who were, at their best, nothing more than average six-round boys.

You now throw in the staggering two million or so that Floyd was paid for the three Ingemar Johansson bouts and you have a financial picture that is positively awesome. If everything goes according to present plans and Patterson meets Sonny Liston at Yankee Stadium in June, you can add another million to this figure.

So Patterson's earnings are tremendous. To go further, he has kept every quarter of the money that was possible to keep under today's tax structure.

Under the rules, then, Mr. Cus D'Amato comes out as simply one helluva manager of a fighter.

When you begin to think of this, there comes to mind one bleak Sunday afternoon in March of 1954 when D'Amato sat at a table in the bar of Luchow's Restaurant, a couple of doors down from his gymnasium on 14th Street in New York, and over some good, cold German beer, he talked about Patterson.

"Floyd Patterson is going to weigh 184 pounds the night he wins the heavyweight championship," Cus was saying.

"Drink the beer," we told him. At this time Patterson barely weighed 165 pounds, and he was fighting such as Bascom and Dick Wagner and Tommy Harrison at Eastern Parkway Arena. The champion was Rocky Marciano. You had to be a wildman to picture Patterson even walking on the same side of the street with Marciano or Ezzard Charles or any of the other top heavyweights.

But on November 30, 1956, weighing 182 pounds, Patterson was chasing Archie Moore around the ring at Chicago Stadium and he was the fastest heavyweight, foot and hand, you ever wanted to see. In the sixth round, he hurt Moore with a couple of hooks to the middle, then kept after him and loaded up a big left hook, and he was the heavyweight champion of the world.

Between 1954 and 1956, Patterson had been nursed to the championship. D'Amato howled about Jim Norris and Frankie Carbo and the International Boxing Club. He refused to fight for them until he was given a ton of money—$45,000—for taking on Tommy "Hurricane" Jackson in the Garden.

Once he had the title, Cus ran away from the Garden and launched his crusade against the "bad elements in the business."

While he was at it, he dug up the Rademachers and Roy Harrises for his man. He made exactly one mistake. To this day, it is hard to believe Cus thought Ingemar Johansson was as dangerous as he turned out to be. It was one of the great jobs of protecting a fighter while making money for him. It is all that counts.

Why, then, with this record, is D'Amato so roundly disliked by just about everybody?

He is not liked because he takes advantage of matters and forces a Rademacher or a McNeeley on the public, they say. Cus also talks in circles. He even tried to ram through one of his own men, Harry Davidow, as a manager of Johansson. He has turned the heavyweight championship into a farce, and all of boxing is suffering because of it.

All of which is true. And all of which is to D'Amato's credit and everybody else's shame. For when somebody starts knocking Patterson and D'Amato for fighting Peter Rademacher, then they better ask, too, what Jack Hurley

was doing as promoter of that farce, and how in the name of anything could a boxing commission tolerate such a match. For it is the politicians who sanction matches, and the public who accepts them and pays money to see them, who are to be blamed for these terrible matches D'Amato digs up.

To pay anything the far side of 50 cents to see Patterson, on closed-circuit television or in the flesh, going against McNeeley qualifies a spectator as a prime sucker. For the Toronto boxing commission to allow the match to go on was a sin.

But let it proceed—they did. And pay to see it on television—the people did.

The fight nearly killed what is left of boxing. But you can't blame D'Amato for it. If everbody else is foolish enough to stand still for his moves, then he would be at fault to go out and dig up some tiger for Patterson.

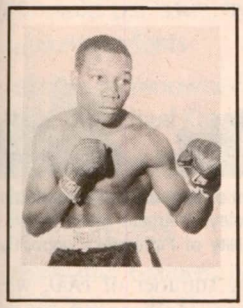
His first loyalty is to the fighter. In this, he is impeccable. He gets the easiest matches for the best of money. That always has been the name of the game, gentlemen.

Or have we forgotten Jack Dempsey meeting a washed-out, underweight Georges Carpentier in Jersey City and getting $300,000 for it? And Rocky Marciano going in with Don Cockell in San Francisco and getting $115,000? In fact, D'Amato never would have accepted anything as low as $115,000 for the Cockell match.

If all of this reads as if it is an accolade for D'Amato, you may be sure it is. This is an intense, white-haired guy who sleeps on a couch in an office on 53rd Street and

In the '50s, D'Amato imparted his wisdom and philosophy to Patterson. In the '70s, he did the same to another rising heavyweight—Mike Tyson. The manager specialized in working with troubled youths.

THE RING RATINGS, *March 1962*



Benny Paret

HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Floyd Patterson**, Scarsdale, NY

1. **Sonny Liston**, Philadelphia, PA
2. **Eddie Machen**, Portland, OR
3. **Zora Folley**, Chandler, AZ
4. **Alejandro Lavorante**, Argentina
5. **Robert Cleroux**, Canada
6. **Ingemar Johansson**, Sweden
7. **Cleveland Williams**, Houston, TX
8. **Henry Cooper**, England
9. **Cassius Clay**, Louisville, KY
10. **George Logan**, Boise, ID

LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Archie Moore**, San Diego, CA

1. **Harold Johnson**, Philadelphia, PA*
2. **Giulio Rinaldi**, Italy
3. **Doug Jones**, New York, NY
4. **Eddie Cotton**, Seattle, WA
5. **Erich Schoppner**, Germany
6. **Chic Calderwood**, Scotland
7. **Gustav Scholz**, Germany
8. **Mauro Mina**, Peru
9. **Von Clay**, Philadelphia, PA
10. **Willie Pastrano**, Miami, FL

***NBA Light Heavyweight Champion**

MIDDLEWEIGHTS

Terry Downes, England

1. **Gene Fullmer**, West Jordan, UT
2. **Dick Tiger**, Nigeria
3. **Paul Pender**, Brookline, MA
4. **Ray Robinson**, New York, NY
5. **Henry Hank**, Detroit, MI
6. **Florentino Fernandez**, Cuba
7. **Yama Bahama**, Bimini
8. **Joey Giardello**, Philadelphia, PA
9. **Denny Moyer**, Portland, OR
10. **Jesse Smith**, Philadelphia, PA

WELTERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Benny Paret**, Cuba

1. **Emile Griffith**, New York, NY
2. **Ralph Dupas**, New Orleans, LA
3. **Jorge Fernandez**, Argentina
4. **Luis Rodriguez**, Cuba
5. **Duilio Loi**, Italy
6. **Federico Thompson**, Argentina
7. **Brian Curvis**, Wales
8. **Ted Wright**, Detroit, MI
9. **Luis Folledo**, Spain
10. **Curtis Cokes**, Dallas, TX

LIGHTWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Joe Brown**, Baton Rouge, LA

1. **Carlos Ortiz**, New York, NY
2. **Davey Charnley**, England
3. **Flash Elorde**, Philippines*
4. **Eddie Perkins**, Chicago, IL
5. **Doug Vaillant**, Cuba
6. **Kenny Lane**, Muskegon, MI
7. **Carlos Hernandez**, Venezuela
8. **Paolo Rosi**, New York, NY
9. **Bert Somodio**, Philippines
10. **Len Matthews**, Philadelphia, PA

***NBA Junior Lightweight Champion**

FEATHERWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Davey Moore**, Springfield, OH

1. **Rafiu King**, Nigeria
2. **Howard Winstone**, Wales
3. **Sugar Ramos**, Cuba
4. **Kazuo Takayama**, Japan
5. **Sergio Caprari**, Italy
6. **Gracieux Lamperti**, France
7. **Danny Valdez**, Los Angeles, CA
8. **Jet Bally**, Philippines
9. **Lalo Guerrero**, Mexico
10. **Jose Luis Cruz**, Mexico

BANTAMWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Eder Jofre**, Brazil

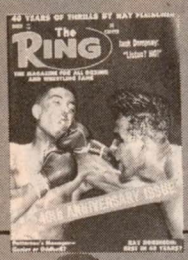
1. **Joe Medel**, Mexico
2. **Johnny Caldwell**, Ireland
3. **Pierre Cossemyns**, Belgium
4. **Alphonse Halimi**, France
5. **Piero Rollo**, Italy
6. **Leo Espinosa**, Philippines
7. **Ismael Laguna**, Panama
8. **Freddie Gilroy**, Ireland
9. **Herman Marques**, Stockton, CA
10. **Cuervo Salinas**, Mexico

FLYWEIGHTS

World Champ: **Pone Kingpetch**, Thailand

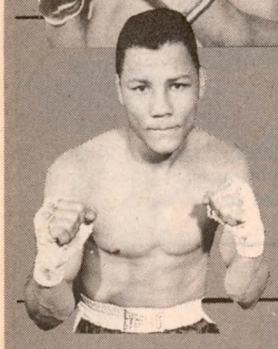
1. **Ramon Arias**, Venezuela
2. **Mimum Ben Ali**, Spain
3. **Sadao Yaoita**, Japan
4. **Salvatore Burruni**, Italy
5. **Pascual Perez**, Argentina
6. **Chatchai Lamphafa**, Thailand
7. **Kyo Noguchi**, Japan
8. **Jean Guerard**, France
9. **Chucho Hernandez**, Mexico
10. **Horacio Accavallo**, Argentina

THE RING, March 1962

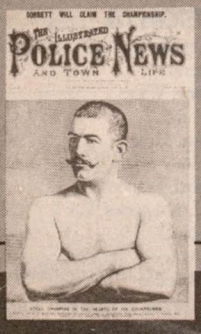


The Cover: A celebration of the 40th anniversary of *The Ring*. Sugar Ray Robinson connects with a right against Randy Turpin. Was Robinson the greatest fighter from 1922 to 1962? Writer and illustrator Ted Carroll says, "They will find him hard to beat."

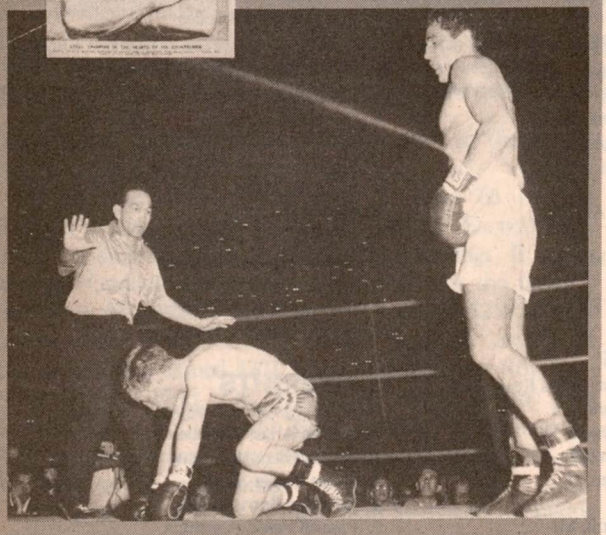
The Liston Title Shot: Should top-rated contender Sonny Liston (pictured) be given a shot at Floyd Patterson's heavyweight crown? Former champion Rocky Marciano says maybe. Another former champion, Jack Dempsey, says no. "He must prove he has rehabilitated himself," Dempsey says, citing Liston's history of anti-social behavior.



A Preview of 1962: Assistant Managing Editor Lew Eskin plays matchmaker. A Patterson-Liston title fight is a must, he says. "The public wants it." Also: a title try for middleweight Dick Tiger (he would dethrone Gene Fullmer in October 1962) and a New York pairing of Sugar Ray Robinson and undefeated Jose Torres (pictured), which would never happen.



A False Legend?: Associate Editor Daniel M. Daniel examines the career of legendary heavyweight champion John L. Sullivan. "The Sullivan Legend does not stand up too robustly," Daniel concludes. His theory is based on Sullivan's record, and his loss to James J. Corbett, "when [Sullivan] finally ran into a rival who was clever and could punch."



Fighter Of The Month: Brazilian bantamweight champion Eder Jofre receives the honors for his 10th-round title-defense stoppage of Ireland's previously unbeaten Johnny Caldwell. Jofre dropped the challenger in the fifth round and dominated throughout. He would make five more defenses and hold the title until 1965.

Broadway. He gives away money as if he hates it. He insists his version of things is the only true one. Through his maneuverings around the first Johansson bout—which caused his suspension as a licensed manager and, for a good time, had Patterson standing away from him—Cus completely lost public opinion. His harrangues against racket guys became a bore.

But his fighter has the title. Frankie Carbo and Blinky Palermo have been convicted of a federal crime, and their trial showed they had every bit of power and influence that Cus always yelled they had.

By the time Patterson gets through flattening Liston—he is most certainly going to give Sonny a terrible beating in six or seven rounds, it says here—Cus' record may well be the finest of any fight manager we have had in the last 30 years.

All of which is not going to change him. For Cus D'Amato mistrusts the world. And he will keep digging up Rademachers for just as long as the public and the commissions are silly enough to tolerate the idea. Meanwhile, D'Amato will also carry on his one-man battle against the American press.

Patterson with D'Amato and trainer Dan Florio (left) after a workout prior to his 1961 title defense against Tom McNeeley. D'Amato often battled the press, which consistently criticized the quality of Patterson's opposition.

There was the night, back in the summer of 1960, when Cus was scheduled to sail for Europe. He does not fly, and he and George Lattimore, his companion, and one of their boxers, were leaving ahead of Patterson, who would fly several days later.

Cus was walking around his apartment, talking and waving his arms as usual, when a visitor came in.

"Aren't you packed yet?" the guy said. "The boat leaves in a couple of hours."

"It leaves tomorrow," Cus said.

"You mean tonight," the guy said.

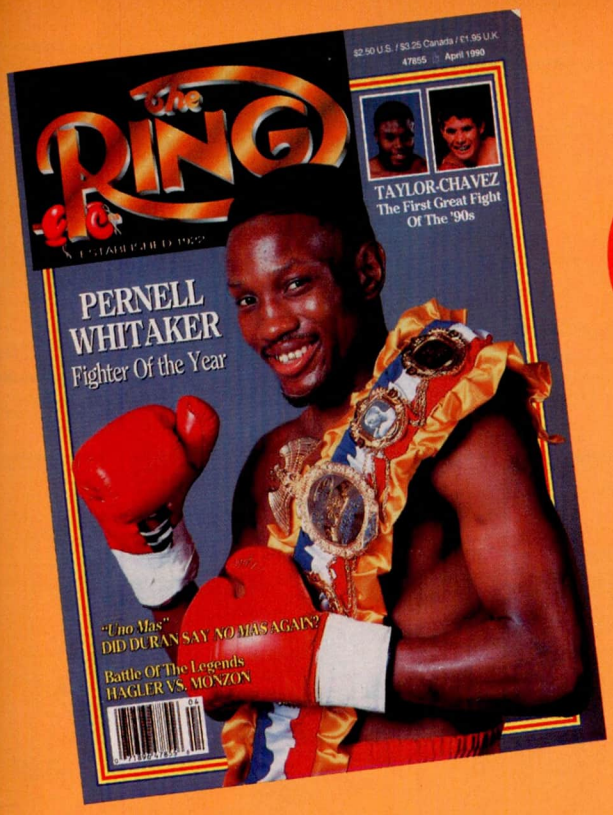
"The ticket says it leaves tomorrow," Cus insisted.

The guy picked up a copy of *The New York Times*, turned to its page of shipping news, and looked up the departure time for Cus' ship. The agate table said the ship was to sail at 12:01 a.m.

"That means tonight," the guy said.

"You got that out of the paper?" Cus said. "How many times did I tell you not to believe anything you read in the newspapers?"

Somehow, they got him on the ship. And somehow, out of all the yelling and the turmoil and the blasts at him, Cus D'Amato has managed to do one creditable managing job. ■



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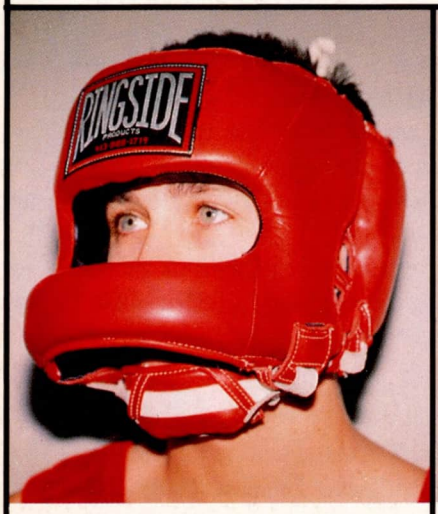

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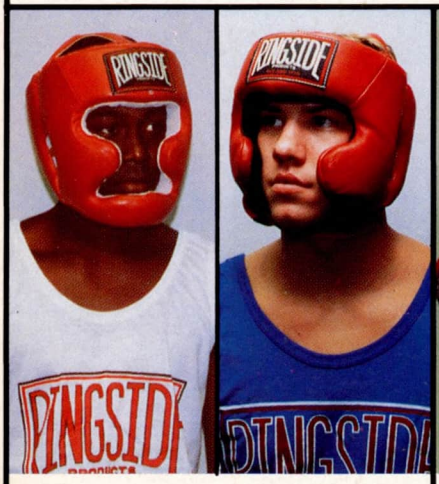

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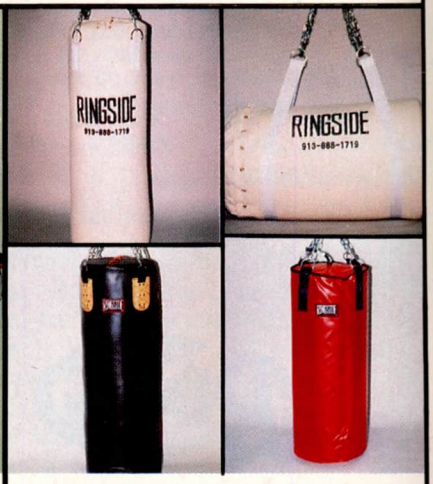

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